Fairbury's Interesting 100 Year History Revealed

April 3, 1958
Fairbury Blade Newspaper

Illegible Front Page Image of Volume 1 Number 2 of the Blade

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> BEGINNING OF THE BLADE — The front page reproduced here was that of Volume 1, No. 2, of the Fairbury Independent, which was to later become the Independent Blade, and finally The Blade. The date of the issue is April 20, 1871.
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> The first issue of The Independent, which would no doubt have been printed on April 13, 1871, is missing from the files. Publishers were O. J. and L. W. Dimmick, the office was over Blackburn's Drug Store, and the subscription price was $2.00 a year — complete with ads on the front page and quite small body type.

1865 Paper Lists Fairbury Merchants

The Blade has a copy of the first issue of the Fairbury Intelligencer, of Thursday, August 10, 1865, of which J. S. Harper was the editor and publisher.

In its business directory it carried the advertisements of McDowell — Lyman, real estate and insurance. W. H. Van Doorn, watchmaker and jeweller; J. M. Lisenby, attorney; A. Adams, constable and special police; Jesse Titue, Justice of the peace; E. B. Oliver, surveyor and real estate; Morris House, which announces that it will accommodate the traveling public to the best of its capacity; R. W. McKee police magistrate; L. W. Roberts dental surgery; Dr. N. T. P. Robertson, physician and surgeon. Church directory. M. E. Church, Rev. J. G. Evans, pastor; Presbyterian, Rev. W. T. Hempstead, pastor.

In the editorial columns there is the following write-up of Fairbury:

"This growing town in which we have located and where we propose in the future to publish the Intelligencer, is situated on the T. P. & W. R. R., twelve miles east of the junction with the Chicago, Alton — St. Louis R. R. The original town plot was laid out by Cropsey and Chanute, in 1857. The first business house was opened about the 1st of Jan. 1858, by Wm. Mitchell. Soon after Vanemman and Fitch erected a warehouse, and located as grain merchants. In the spring of 1858, Pogue, Amsbary and Thomas opened up a dry goods store in the building now occupied by Jones & Amsbary. During this year improvements went on rapidly. The Morris House and two boarding houses were erected. Patton & Dodds opened a grocery store, the depot was located and building erected by subscriptions from the citizens of the town and vicinity; a lumber yard was established by John Coomer; a drug store by John Blackburn; a wagon making and repairing shop by Smith & Hall, and a blacksmith shop by Jacob Hunt.

A Methodist church edifice was erected during the same year. In 1859 a business house was opened by Remington & Gillett in the building now occupied by J. P. and W. S. McDowell. The flouring mill now owned and run so successfully by R. B. Wilson, was erected by W. G. McDowell, and many other

smaller improvements were made. In 1860, Pogue & Co. erected the large warehouse now run with such an advantage to the farming community by Dresser & Co. and a fine two-story school house sufficient to accommodate over two hundred scholars with four teachers, was erected. In 1861 another store was opened by Strevell & Oliver, in the building now occupied by H. Remington. Hulsey, Fulton & Co. opened a new drug store, and a Presbyterian church was built.

Thus year after year has our town improved in business houses with proportionate growth in residence, until we now number five dry goods stores, one clothing store, with a fine stock of boots and shoes; four grocery stores, three hardware stores; two furniture stores and all other branches of business proportionately represented. The amount of capital invested is perhaps larger for the size of the place than is to be found in any other town in this portion of the state. Business men do business upon their own capital, mainly; and do a safe as well as extensive business. The bank of McDowell, Lyman & Co. is a valuable institution for our town, while it no doubt, yields a fine income to the firm. Through this bank exchange can be had for doing business in any direction, and the unquestioned integrity of the several members of the firm is a guarantee to those who find it convenient to do business with them.

An important feature of our prosperity remains to be noticed. We refer to the great supply of coal, not only for ourselves but for our neighbors who in the winter at least are quite dependent upon us.

In 1859, Mr. J. L. Marsh & Co. bored for coal just west of the town, and being successful in finding a workable vein of coal, a shaft was immediately sunk. At a little over two hundred feet from the surface, a vein four feet and ten inches thick, was struck, and the coal found to be of a superior quality. The town plot has been growing, with the growth of business and the demand for more room. In 1859, J. L. Marsh laid out an addition of 80 acres on the west. In 1863, Caleb Patton laid out an addition on the south. In 1864 A. L. Pogue extended the town plot still farther south and recently H. I. P. McDowell has laid out an addition on the Northeast, and John Atkins on the South east. Over 300 acres are laid out in town lots and still the cry is for more room, and A. P. Straight, we learn, is about to yield off his farm lying on the southwest. We congratulate those who own land anywhere near to Fairbury. They can soon sell off in town lots.

The morals of the people are well cared for, and those who prefer good, moral society can have it, while we are sorry to say, there is a chance for the accommodation of those whose preference are otherwise. There are four organized religious societies in the place. The Methodist church with Rev. J. G. Evans as pastor, has, we learn, a membership of 150 or upwards, and a large congregation. Their Sunday school, N. E. Lyman, Superintendent, is said to be the finest in the county, having over 200 scholars and being conducted with ability, and so as to make it interesting to all. The Presbyterian pulpit is filled by Rev. W. T. Hempstead, a man of education and possessing quite a poetical gift.

The Baptist society are erecting a church which they hope to complete soon though they are not without any regular pastor, but have fortunately secured the services of Rev. Mr. Karnes for a short time while they are struggling to finish their house of worship.

The Christian (Campbellite) society have for the present the service of H. Spence as pastor. Those wishing to attend Divisional Services have an opportunity of doing so where pulpits are ably filled. But while the churches have been making laudable efforts to moralize the community, there have been here, and still are, influences at work to corrupt the youth, and paralyze the efforts of the good.

That bane of human society, the drinking saloon, has done its mischief here as well as elsewhere. We trust that the day is not far removed when these shall be completely routed out of our pleasant little

town. Drinking saloons, even though they pass under the name of "beer saloon", will make drunkards. We bid God speed to the noble band of templars here who are battling the evil of intemperance in all of its hideous forms. We shall hereafter have some thing to say about some needed improvements.

Largest Issue Ever Published Commemorates Centennial

This special issue of The Blade commemorates the 100th anniversary of the founding of Fairbury.

Totaling 64 pages, this edition is the largest ever to be printed by The Blade, or by any other newspaper ever published in Fairbury.

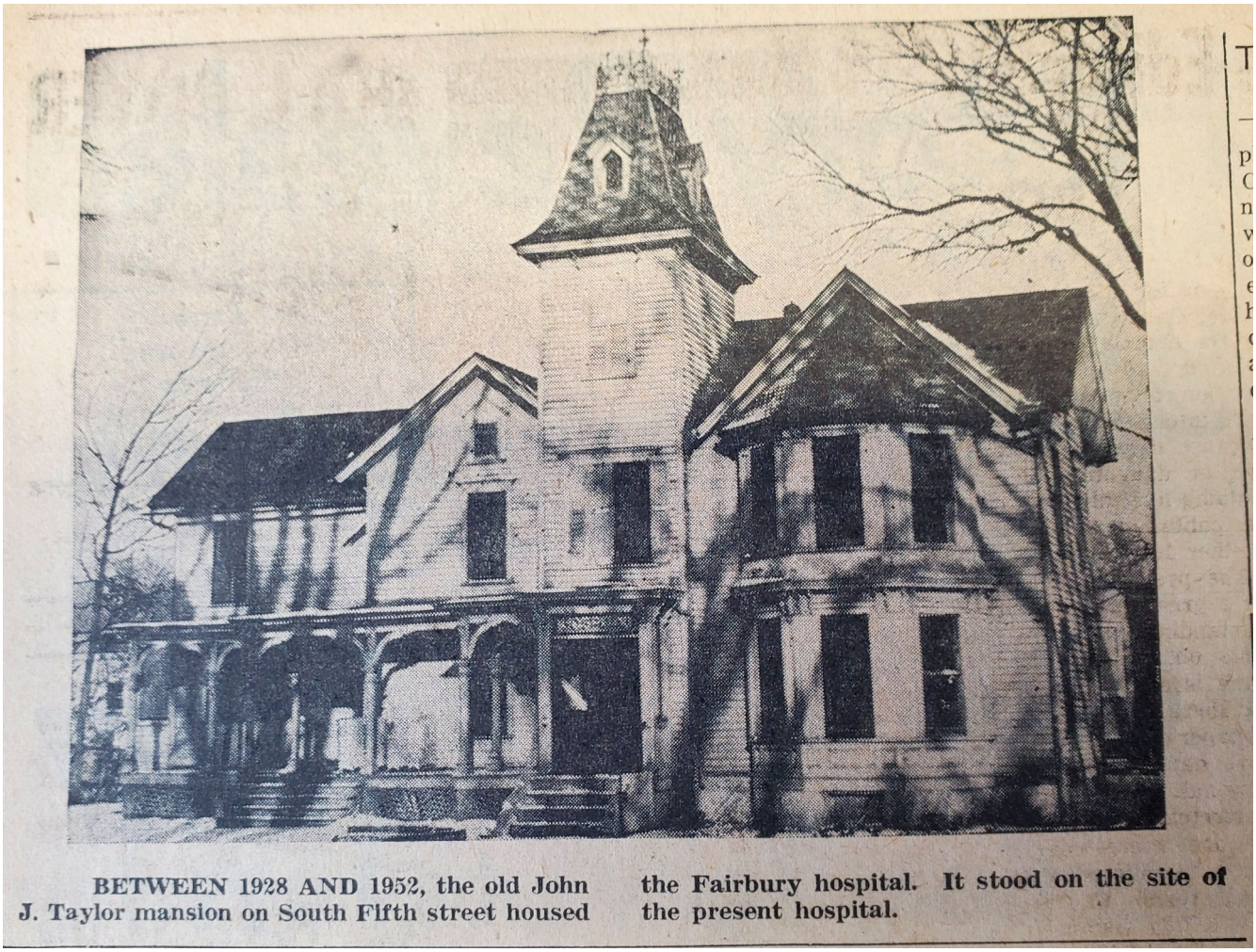
READERS WILL find each page crammed with the history of Fairbury, its people and its organizations. More than 200 photographs are included to help the reader bring the past more graphically to him.

Because of the unexpected quantity of material which The Blade received following its announcement that it would print a centennial issue, publication was delayed some four and one-half months past the city's actual 100th birthday, which was Nov. 10 1957.

HOWEVER, IT was felt by the compilers of the issue that, as its principal purpose was that of presenting as comprehensive a history as possible, and that it would remain somewhat of a reference for many years to come, completeness could, in this case, be more of a virtue than punctuality.

Even then, the editors found it impossible to include some of the things which they would have liked to have as a part of the issue.

We hope the publication meets with the expectations of its readers.



BETWEEN 1928 AND 1952, the old John J. Taylor mansion on South Fifth street housed the Fairbury hospital. It stood on the site of the present hospital.

Growth of Hospital Shows Exceptional Community Spirit

The history of the Fairbury hospital is 46 years old. Through these years the institution has grown from the unassuming beginning as a two room nursing home to the realized dream of a completely modern structure built expressly as a hospital.

The story of the Fairbury hospital is also the story of the community which it serves, for it has been because of the indefatigable and tireless efforts of the community that a dream has become a reality. The roots of the Fairbury hospital were sunk into the ground one day in 1911 when a Mrs. Veters opened a nursing home above the building now occupied by the Fairbury Bakery. Steam baths and other treatments were a part of this early beginning. Miss Rachel Olsen assisted Mrs. Vetters.

The hospital was incorporated in 1914, with Dr. J. R. Rayburn elected the first president.
The need for a larger and more well-equipped structure was keenly felt by many, however, one of whom was the late J. H. Langstaff. Through the efforts of Dr. Langstaff, Dr. Rayburn and others of the city, a site for the new hospital was chosen, it being the cement block residence structure of John Monroe, located at 313 W. Oak street.

And it was then that the hospital truly became a community project, a classification which has remained to this date. Local carpenters donated labor and tools and began remodeling the inside. Local decorators painted walls, refinished woodwork and polished floors, donating time and labor. Material was given by local merchants.

Operating room furnishings and equipment were donated by Dr. Langstaff. Ten persons gave $100 each as a foundation to establish the hospital. The V.Y.P.U. of the Baptist church gave silverware and kitchen utensils. The Ladies Society of the Presbyterian church donated sets of china dishes, rugs and quilts. The Ladies Aid of the Christian church offered sewing and comfort.

The Feb. 6, 1914 issue of the Blade effectively chronicled the interest of the community by continuing the list of donations.

Kring Bros. gave flowers for the opening. Mrs. G. Y. McDowell gave a dining room table and chairs. Mrs. George Decker a quilt. Mrs. Isaac Walton, mattress, pillows and bed clothes. Miss Lizzie Anker a rug. Mrs. Will Goslin contributed sewing. Mr. and Mrs. Will Schmidt parlor curtains, Miss Acca Stafford, tea towels. Charles Day furnace repairs and plumbing. Alex Milne, flowers, Mrs. Martha Powell, a carpet and many more.

Donating time and labor were A. Cooleny, Grover Troehler, Bert Slaughter, W. Amsbarry, E. Woodard, M. G. Sterling, Drennen Bros. Thomas Slocombe, W. J. Langabeer, Ben Demler, Lon Hill, Fred Lough, The Blade, and Local Record, Rolland Woods, Mrs. Hartley, Peter Peebles, S. C. Cox, Henry Watts, J. K. Shook, Model Grocery and on and on with almost an endless list.

On Feb. 2, 1914, the new hospital was formally opened to the public by a reception held during the afternoon and evening. A great number of residents availed themselves of the opportunity to visit the new hospital. Miss Olsen was employed as superintendent.

This site continued to serve the needs of the community and surrounding area until 1928, when once again steps were taken to expand the facilities to their necessary level. On January 29, 1928, the hospital board, bidding at public auction, purchased the estate of Frieda Munz Scharlach, the home built by John J. Taylor on South Fifth Street. The amount paid was $6,155.

It is significant that in purchasing the property, the hospital board pointed out that sooner or later the city will have to have a new hospital building, and the property purchased is by far the most logical site in the city. When the time comes for the erection of a new hospital, the house now on the place will be torn down.

Again, the public came to the front in preparing the rambling home as a hospital, with much labor, time, and materials again donated, an addition was built to the structure and equipped as an operating room. Partitions were taken out and added rooms furnished by donations, the outside painted, and an oil heater installed, to name a few of the renovations. The American Legion donated considerable aid.

The hospital committee of the Fairbury Woman’s Club sponsored a drive for funds which netted $8,000.

And once again, 19 months later, local residents stood back to admire their work, and on Saturday August 17, 1929, the doors were thrown wide for open house.

Ten beds, a large kitchen, nursery, dumb-waiter, elevator, reception office, nurse's room expanded closet and storage space and other refinements made the community glow at its accomplishment.

The Blade of the following week gave this account of the formal opening.

Entering the house from the front vestibule the broad stairway with its balustrade of old, dark wood, makes a pleasing contrast to the uniform ivory enamel used thruout the downstairs for the wood finish. Hard wood floors were already in the main rooms on the first floor and battleship linoleum has been used as a floor covering for the remainder of the house.

The walls of the living rooms are covered with bright, attractive paper. There are soft colored drapes with filmy curtains at the windows and substantial room size rugs on the floors. A chart desk and chair, the gift of the Piper City ladies, placed in the recess of the hall beyond the stairway is a convenient arrangement. A pretty, bright set of wicker furniture gives a touch of attractiveness to the reception room to the right at the far end of the hall. North of the reception room is the dining room with the usual pieces augmented by the built-in china closet which opens thru into the pantry.

An east porch opening from the dining room offers a wonderful view of the garden and by the means of a incline approach, will furnish a means for taking wheel-chair patients out upon the lawn.

To the north and east of the dining room is the kitchen with both north and south windows, and a convenient arrangement of sink and work table in relation to range and gas stove. Ample cupboard room is also a feature. The back stairs come into this room. East of the kitchen is the utility room where the ironing will be done, and in one corner of which is the breakfast nook. East of this room is the maid's room.

At the head of the basement stairs which go down from the utility room, is a coal shoot for the range coal. Every available space has been used for storage closets and modern conveniences.

The basement under the eastern wing, houses the steam heating plant with its oil-o-matic burner. Other parts of the basement furnish space for the laundry room, with its electric washer (the gift of the Walton Bros. Co. employees), its stationary tubs with the hot and cold water faucets and convenient drains. Fruit rooms and storage rooms take up the rest
of the basement floor.

The second floor has six bed rooms. There is also a diet kitchen on this floor, fitted with a skell-gas burner cupboards and dumb-waiter service to the main kitchen. Laundry shoots connect both floors with the basement. All bed rooms are furnished with a Symmonds Ford bed, dresser, a combination commode, and bed-side table, one reception chair and one high backed rocker, all of metal.

The patients rooms vary only in the color of the decorations and of the furniture. The wood-work is white enamel, the walls are in pastel tints and the furniture is brown, tan, or green enamel finish. All rooms have two windows and a good closet. Bath rooms, toilets, and lavatories are placed thruout the house to the best possible advantage.

The next step on the road to Fairbury's dream of a completely equipped and modern hospital plant came on October 1, 1941, when ground was broken for a new obstetrical unit. By now many new faces were among the group taking active part in the planning,

building, and financing of the newest expansion but the same spirit of community helpfullness prevailed to see the job through.

A completely modern nursery delivery room and 11 additional beds on the first floor, a modern kitchen and doctors' lounge and shower, a nurses' lounge, a fruit and vegetable storage room, kitchen, laundry and a new heating system for both the addition and
main unit were prize refinements of the new unit.

Months stretched into a year then a year-and-a half, but on February 13, 1943, the obstetrical unit was opened for public inspection, and 11 days later was put into service. The first portion of the new hospital prophesized 14 years earlier, was complete.

Supervising the project had been members of the hospital board, Dr. W. A. Marshall, president; Dr. F. H. Miller, vice-president; Miss May Bennett, Secretary; C. R. Voris, treasurer; J. N. Bach, Mrs. Kate Huntoon. Dr. Lockner, of Chatsworth; Dr. Shaddle, of Forrest; Dr. Branch, of Piper City; Dr. J. H. Langstaff, Mrs. M. A. Anderson, Mrs. Orville Lange. Mrs. Walter Burt, Mrs. Jessie Powell, Mrs. Edward Carlson and M. D. Fugate.

Members of the building committee at that time were M. D. Fugate, Chairman, Mayor Klopfenstein, Dr. Miller, C. R. Voris and Edward Lange.

On August 9, 1950, phase two of creating a modern hospital on the site of the old John J. Taylor homestead was begun. On that day, excavation for the second wing was started.

Again, as on past occasions, donated labor, materials, time and money and various benefits proved important factors in the completion of the wing.

On Sunday, Feb. 17, 1952, open house in the new wing was held. More than 1,100 highly pleased persons flowed through the new wing to see the results of the community's labor. Almost $1,200 was donated by those making the grand opening tour of inspection. William Arends, hospital manager, acted as host.

The obstetrical wing to the southeast and the new wing to the northeast now stood divided by the original old Taylor house. It remained now as prophesized in 1928 for that structure to be torn down and the two wings connected by yet another new building.

Work to this end was begun immediately; a group of volunteer laborers began tearing down the former old mansion, which had been built in the 1860's. On March 10, 1952, ten days later it had been completely razed.

The hospital board, composed of John Gerber, president; Roy Taylor, vice-president; Hazel Metz, sec.; Hartzell Munz, treas.; Sue Lange, Emma Burt, Dr. C. J. Shaddle, C. B. Day, Salome Schlipf, Lloyd Bornkasser, Mrs. Charles Ambrose, Mrs. Margaretha Myer, Clifford Denker, Harry Bach, William Arends and Supt. of Nurses Mrs. Dorothy Clark, then met in a lengthy session and decided to organize a drive at once for a sum of between $90,000 and $100,000 with which the new connecting building could be built.

Excavation for the new building was completed on May 15, 1952. At that time C. C. Thompson, chairman of the fund drive, announced $20,000 had been pledged or received. Organizations in

Fairbury and surrounding communities again came to the front in sponsoring fund-raising activities, but one of the most successful was a pledge drive held at the high school in which $24,174 was raised. In November an additional $9,300 was collected in a house-to-house canvass.

At the time, it was thought the fund goal was within about $25,000 of being reached, but near the end of May, 1953 it was announced the hospital fund had been depleted, and $40,000 would be needed to finish the building. The drive was pushed forward throughout the summer as work on the building itself was continued.

By Oct. 1, only $9,000 remained to be raised. A great day arrived Saturday, Nov. 21, 1953. The newly completed building was thrown open for public inspection. The dream of a new modern hospital had been realized.

Included in the new section were modern office facilities for administrative and nursing personnel, a new kitchen, operating rooms, X-ray rooms, ten private rooms, and waiting rooms.

On the building committee which had accomplished so much were Lloyd Bornkasser, chairman; Roy Taylor, vice chairman; Louis Heins, treasurer; John Sutter, John Roth, Kenneth Rosenboom, Chatsworth; Archie Underwood, Piper City; William Metz, Forrest; and Roger Lindenbaum, also of Forrest.

The building of the central portion, which for the first time made a complete and modern unit of the hospital, did not, however, end expansion. An increased continued use of the hospital facilities soon made it apparent that even more beds were needed.

Work on starting a fourth wing was begun Oct. 25, 1956. The wing, which runs north and south from the east end of the north wing, will bring the capacity of the hospital to 90 beds and is under construction at the present time.

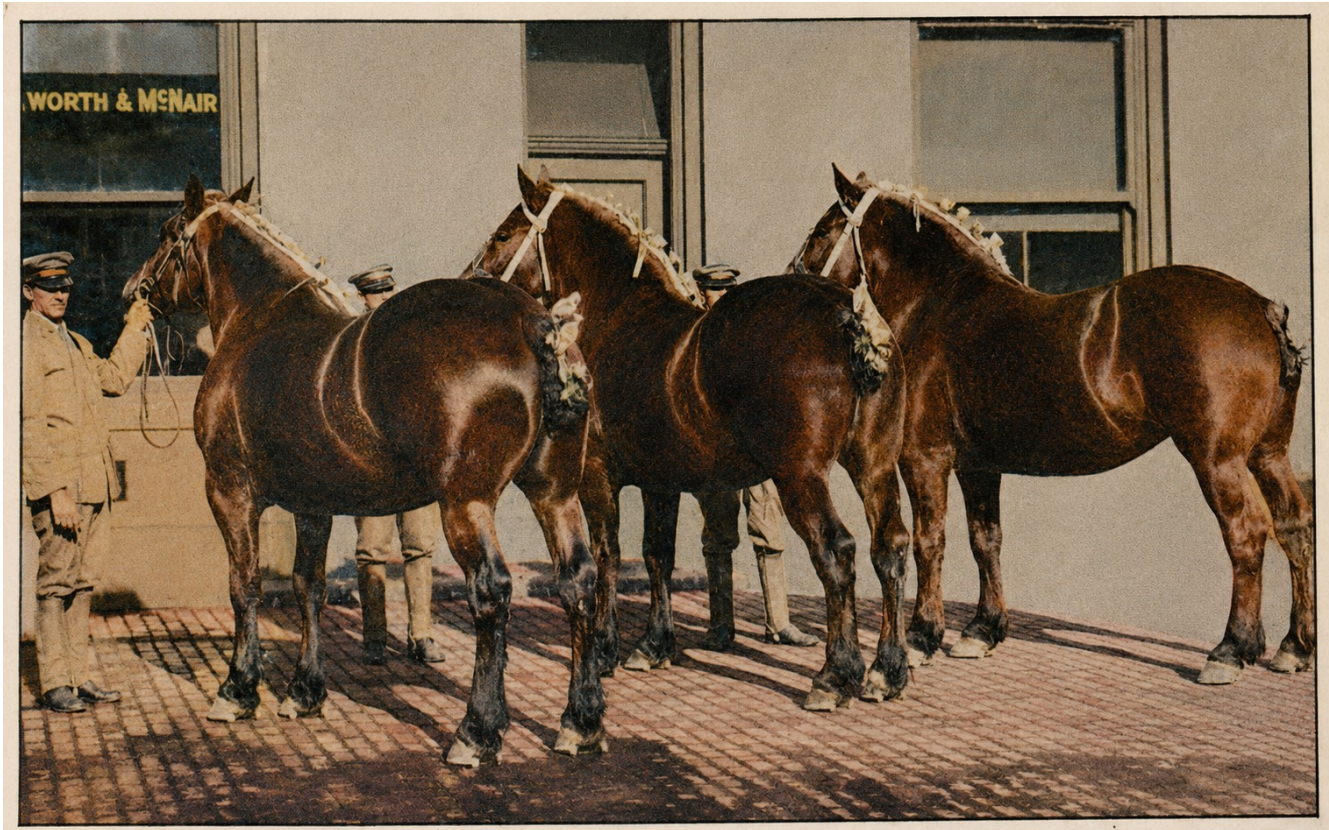
TRANSCRIPTION NOTES:

On February 14, 1952, the Blade published an article about Fairbury hospital history because the old 1860s Taylor house was being torn down and replaced by the first new brick hospital building next to it.

For the special 100th Anniversary of Fairbury, on April 3, 1958, the Blade located the earlier 1952 article and re-used most of it, adding new developments at the end of the article that had occurred since 1952.

The 1952 article correctly stated that a Fairbury hospital had been in service for 41 years since the first hospital was established in 1911. When the Blade updated the article for publication in 1958, it should have revised the 41 years to 47 years, but this change was not made.

Dale C. Maley
Fairbury, Illinois Historian
May 1, 2026



HEAVY DRAFT HORSES were a major industry 50 years ago, when L. J. Heins is shown with a group of Percheron mares at the International in Chicago. The mare at left won a fifth in a class of 52. The horses were imported from France by Valentine Harms, now of Aurora, and the late H. L. Heins, brother of L. J., of Fairbury.

Fairbury, 100 Years Old

Fairbury, just past its 100th birthday, is in a period of healthy growth. The number of new homes is indicative of the growth and economic health of the community, and large projects symbolize the forward-thinking population.

The new additions to Fairbury hospital, swimming pool, sewerage project, new churches and additions, the growth of the Indian Creek and Country club, the new schools, and many other factors point out the fact that Fairbury is a strong, healthy community. Fairbury's businessmen appear to be less affected by the current business slump than in about any other community we have observed.

Since 1871, The Blade has served the community, and we hope to continue to serve in an ever-improving capacity, so that our sons and their sons, and other generations beyond them, can be proud of Fairbury, and look forward to making their home here.

During the last 100 years, Fairburians have established a stable community when many settlements whithered and finally surrendered. We salute the generations before us who carved a pleasant city out of virgin prairie grass and swampland. Their courage and resourcefulness will remain as a challenge to all of us.

The future should be even brighter. With today's enlightenment and modern methods, progress should be more rapid and dangers and problems less perplexing. If the people of Fairbury work together, there will be no end of their accomplishments.

The Editor's Corner

Publishing this centennial issue has been a rather hectic process, but rewarding. We have brought to light much valuable historical data, and published it in one issue out of interesting past.

Due to the pressure of time and a lack of authorities to check much of the data, there may be some minor errors, but we feel that the sources for most of the material were excellent. We appreciate the fine articles prepared by Mrs. Alma Lewis-James, and the interesting articles prepared by the historians of the other churches and organizations. Those who furnished pictures aided greatly in the publication.

The Blade spared no expense in making this a truly great issue. Cost of copying the pictures in itself was huge, with great additional expense and work in engraving them. Those looking for errors will undoubtedly find them, but those looking for interesting facts should have many enjoyable hours.

The number of extra copies is limited, and we will probably run out before too long. We urge everyone interested to save his copy, because if he does not want it, a son or daughter might someday. Nothing like this will probably ever be published again, at least for another 100 years.

The present Blade force is due for a great deal of praise for their outstanding work in getting this issue out in their "spare time." Each issue weighs over a pound, and there were more than two tons of paper used in its printing.

We haven't figured out how far it would reach if the pages were all stretched out, but I will, in case you are interested. If each sheet would be laid side to side, they would reach 67 miles. That is quite a tidy distance.

The Post Office employees will probably be thankful that the centennial edition did not come immediately after the Christmas rush.

Grains of Sand by Tom Carter

The centennial issue is finally out.

One thing is certain. I wouldn't want to ever help put out another one. No sir. Not in a hundred years.

Don't misunderstand, though. It was, as they say in some quarters, a real challenge. It was also a nightmare and a headache and something which seemed never to get finished no matter how much was done. It was, too, a lot of fun and a rewarding experience.

This writer confined his efforts on the issue to preparing ad copy and layouts, selling advertising space, copying, printing and writing captions for the old photographs, and digging through old copies of The Blade and published histories for historical data. Outside of the sports material, and interview with Mrs.

Lydia Bach for a write-up on the Apostolic Christian church, and a few other small articles, yours truly can take no credit whatever for any of the stories contained in this issue. (Which is a poorly concealed way of saying that if a date is wrong or a name misspelled somewhere along the line, don't blame me.) Actually, practically all of the histories were written by members of the clubs themselves, and therefore should be quite accurate.

On an issue such as this I think it would be entirely possible to go on gathering information for it for a matter of years. Even after some of the articles were prepared, someone would pop in with added information which would require a revision. It is hoped, however, that the information contained in the issue is relatively complete, and will be of interest not only to readers of The Blade at this time, but in future years as well.

Cheerful Givers Organize In '03

A meeting was held July 1, 1903 at the home of Mrs. Luella Fisher (O.D.) Travis for the purpose of organizing a sewing and reading circle for mothers and children, especially children who would enjoy such work. The circle was called Busy Bees and meetings were held during school vacation.

When the health of Mrs. Travis, who was the first president, failed, and she passed away, the circle disbanded until several ladies of Belle Prairie and Indian Grove met at the home of Mrs. Nettie Allen (Frank) Fitzgerald on June 13, 1907 and organized the cheerful givers Society.

First officers were president, Mrs. Nettie Allen Frank Fitzgerald, (deceased) secretary, Mrs. Fred Cooper, La Rule, Ohio and treasurer, Mrs. Lee Travis (deceased.)

The preamble of the constitution was written by Mrs. Z.T. Rudkin, who has been for several years and still is a patient at the Fairbury Hospital, Mrs. Fred Cooper and Miss Vera Travis now Mrs. W.C. Payne a charter member who is still active in the society.

It reads. We the ladies of Belle Prairie and Indian Grove in order to help others less fortunate than ourselves in other vicinities and to lend a helping hand where we can near home and at the same time to benefit ourselves, morally and intellectually do hereby establish this constitution for the society of the Cheerful givers.

Early members some of which were charter members were alphabetically: Mrs. Frank Barnes, (deceased) Mrs. Will Barnes, Mrs. Martin Barnes (deceased) Mrs. Fred Cooper, Mrs. Chas. Fitzgerald (deceased) Mrs. Nettie Allen Frank Fitzgerald (deceased) Mrs. Hugh Hays (deceased) Miss Veva Hays, Mrs. Wm. Hieronymus (deceased) Mrs. Henry Hildreth (deceased), Mrs. C. D. Hildreth (deceased), Mrs. C. D. Howarth (deceased), Miss Lina Howarth (deceased) Mrs. Janie Howarth, Mrs. Mel Jones, (deceased) Mrs. Edd Morko (deceased), Mrs. Minnie (John) Masterson (deceased), Mrs. Z.T. Rudkin, Mrs. Robt. Saunders, Mrs. Adrian Travis, Mrs. Lee Travis, (deceased) Miss Vera Travis, Mrs. Velva Travis, Mrs. Lester Westervelt, Miss Vera Westervelt, Miss Hazel Westervelt, Mrs. Mary Widdifield (deceased) Mrs. Harvey Widdifield Miss Lynna Widdifield, Mrs. Nettie (Geo) Worrick, Deceased.

The society has contributed to many organizations and institutions by sending articles of clothing some made by members and cash donations. Many quilts have been given.

A partial list of groups which received aid early in the life of the organization is : Bacon Memorial Mission, Peoria; Home of the Friendless, Peoria; Girls Industrial Home, Bloomington; Baby Fold,

Normal; Christian Orphanage Home, St. Louis; Lake Bluff Orphanage Chicago; Old Peoples Home, Jacksonville; Salem Orphanage Flanagan; Veterans Hospital, Dwight; Flood Relief Fund, Old Peoples Home, Pontiac; Huddlestons Baptist Home, Irvington; Cunningham Home, Urbana; Victory Hall Normal; Salvation Army, Good Neighbors Club WLS, Fairbury Dominy Library and Cooper Cemetery, Cancer, T. B., and Polio Funds, Yanks Who Gave, Belle Prairie and Fairbury Red Cross to which all serving was done during the World War. Liberty Bonds were bought at this time.

In early years clothing was given to the Associated Charities of Fairbury, needy families were helped and at Christmas, baskets of food, given.

Gifts were given to families who had the misfortune to lose their home by fire.

Sewing and mending has been done for the Fairbury Hospital and two rooms furnished and are still maintained.

The ways and means to carry on this work has been varied, such as ice cream (homemade) socials assisted by the Belle Prairie Band, oyster suppers, plays given in rural schools, high schools and halls bake sales, bazaars which included reed baskets made by members and proceeds from a cook book compiled by the members. Served lunch at many farm sales. The most outstanding was the Churchill sale Dec. 12, 1928, clearing $166.87. Many trips were made back to Fairbury for more hamburger and other provisions.

On a very cold day at the Dr. Langstaff sale $100.00 was cleared. More recently a number of banquets have been served at the high school including Alumni and Farmer Rotarians.

Family parties held in the homes and later years in halls were a highlight of the society featuring many enjoyable times. Fourth of July celebrations held in the Wm. Hieronymus Grove, assisted by the Belle Prairie Band and a speaker from Fairbury were well attended in early years. Tours have been made to the Reformatory Pontiac, Oakdale Prison, Dwight, Morton Pottery and other places followed with a luncheon.

The 35th anniversary of the society was celebrated with a tea and social afternoon June 13 1942 at the home of Mrs. W. C. Payne honoring past presidents. Fifty-five members past presidents and guests were in attendance—a program was given.

Past Presidents are: Mrs. Nettie Allen (Frank) Fitzgerald (deceased) Mrs. Lee Travis, (deceased), Mrs. Fred Cooper, Mrs. Mary C. (O.D.) Travis, (deceased) Mrs. Z. T. Rudkin, Mrs. Hugh Hays (deceased) Mrs. Frank Barnes (deceased) Mrs. J. A. Hartley, (deceased) Mrs. Adam Hoker, (deceased) Mrs. W. C. Payne, Mrs. Ernest Hoffman, Mrs. H. H. Hays, Mrs. Ivan Crum, Mrs. Ralph Deputy, Mrs. Joe Goins, (deceased) Mrs. Raymond Deputy, Mrs. Jake Helmers, Mrs. Ralph Thomas, Mrs. John Winchester, Mrs. Roy Boles, Mrs. Clair Barnes, Mrs. Oscar Hannie, Mrs. Curtis Hoffman, Mrs. Phil Thompson, Mrs. James Waters, Mrs. Earl Payne (deceased), Mrs. Lloyd Wells.

June 13, 1952 on the 45th anniversary the members held a dinner party at the E. and E. A short program and a social afternoon at the home of Mrs. Martin Barnes.

The Cheerful Givers observed their 50th anniversary June 13, 1957 at a 1 o'clock luncheon at the Honegger House Fairbury. An attendance of 71 members, former members and guests were present.

Mrs. Ralph Deputy served as toastmistress and introduced, Mrs. Oscar Hannie who gave the welcome, Mrs. Wilbert Hildreth, Minutes of 35th anniversary, Mrs. Dean Moser, Mrs. Dwight Brown, Vocal Duet, Mrs. Harry Newnam, Memorial for deceased members, Mrs. Gaylord Stephens, Chalk drawing, Mrs. Ray Frederick, Reader, Mrs. Eberhardt Schoon, Vocal Solo, Mrs. W. C. Payne and Mrs. Ernest Hoffman, Letters from Former members, Miss Martha Rae Kenzer, Piano solo, Miss Delores Gillon, Vocal solo, Mrs. Hartford Price, Accordian numbers, Mrs. Douglas Kinzer, Readings.

The 1957 officers are: President-Mrs. Oscar Hannie, Secretary-Mrs. Wilbert Hildreth, Treasurer—Mrs. James Waters.

The present membership: Mrs. Bruce Barnes, Mrs. Clair Barnes, Mrs. Everett Barnes, Mrs. Stanley Barnes, Mrs. Will Barnes, Miss Laura Barnes, Mrs. Ralph Deputy, Mrs. Stewart Dunlap, Mrs. Clarence Ferguson, Mrs. Marshall Fitzgerald, Mrs. Oscar Hannie, Mrs. Jake Helmers, Mrs. Lytle Hieronymus, Mrs. Wilbert Hildreth, Mrs. Ernest Hoffman, Mrs. Curtis Hoffman, Mrs. John Kruse, Mrs. Geo. Meyers, Mrs. Robert Monroe, Mrs. Ross Mowery, Mrs. Harry Newnam. Mrs. Howard Payne, Mrs. W. C. Payne, Mrs. Gaylord Stephens, Mrs. Phil Thompson, Mrs. O. R. Vail, Mrs. Hugh Vansickle, Mrs. James Waters, Mrs. Lloyd Wells.

The society plans to carry on as in former years lending help where they can, meeting once a month at members homes with a special dinner party in June each year.

AVOCA SCHOOL of about half century ago had 15 pupils. Among them were Ivan Morrison, Francis McDowell, Virgil Sparks, Lea Sparks, Ben Suter, Myrtle Powell, Gertie Powell Brady and Charles Morrison.

L. B. Dominy First Mayor Of Fairbury

Lorenzo Beach Dominy was born in Plain City, Ohio in 1844 and was left an orphan at the age of eighteen months. He was raised by his grandparents, Dr. and Edith Beach and came with them to Illinois in 1855. He was identified with Fairbury during its entire existence having been on the ground before the town was laid out. He grew to manhood, commenced life as a farmer living just east of town on a farm that is still owned by one of his descendants. He was married to Phoebe Curl.

Mr. and Mrs. Dominy moved to town in 1870 and he entered the banking firm of Bartlett, Beach and Dominy one of the most influential banks in Central Illinois. When the village was merged into a city he was the first mayor of Fairbury, serving several terms in that office and as a member of the City Council. He was also Supervisor for several years. At the time of his death he was school treasurer, and treasurer of the Fair Association. He died in 1902.

His wife, Phoebe Dominy, was born in Pennsylvania in 1844 and came to Fairbury in 1863 at the beginning of the stirring period of the Civil War and was among the last of the surviving pioneers of those vital days when death came at the age of 88 in 1932. While quiet and unassuming in her daily life, Mrs. Dominy was a dominant influence for the uplift of the community. After the death of her husband, she, with her daughters, built and presented to the City of Fairbury, fully equipped, the Dominy Memorial Library, in 1904 in memory of Mr. Dominy and a daughter Hazel who passed away in 1901. She was a member of the Board of Directors till her death. She was a liberal supporter of the

Methodist church and also the Fairbury Hospital. Three daughters survived Mr. and Mrs. Dominy, all living a long and useful life in Fairbury. Jessie Dominy Powell. Jenny Dominy McDowell, Lizzie Dominy Bane.

McDowell Family Name Lives Through Village Founded In 1873

There is always a note of sadness surrounding the extinction of a family name, but in the case of one Fairbury family, the sadness has been tempered in the knowledge that the name will be perpetuated by a town.

The name, of course, is that of McDowell. The last person to carry the name was G. Y. McDowell, who died in 1955 at the age of 92. Many descendants still remain in Fairbury, and continue in the ownership of some of the land owned by their forefathers.

But if it were not for the village of McDowell, the name would now be only a part of the past.

The following information concerning McDowell and Avoca township was supplied the Blade by Marion McDowell Stafford.

McDowell, about 6 miles South of Pontiac, was laid out as a village in 1873 by Judge McDowell, who owned the land and it was named for him. He put up the first house before the village was plotted. The first post office was kept by John Cottrell and was established in 1872. The first store was built and occupied by Ben Walton who later moved to Fairbury. One of the principal features of the place was the stone quarry, also owned by Judge McDowell. Most of the foundations for the homes in that vicinity were made of that stone which was an excellent quality of limestone, also valuable for lime.

Came in 1830

Although the village of McDowell was not established until 1873, Avoca township was one of the first to be settled in Livingston County. The first settlement was made in December of 1830 by Isaac Jordan. William Popejoy, John Hannaman and their families settled in this neighborhood on X-mas day of the same year.

This constituted the settlement until 1832 when William McDowell came to the country in May with five sons, John, Woodford G., James, Hiram and Joseph and one daughter who married Mr. Tucker.

The McDowells brought with them a few panes of glass for a window in their cabin, in which particular they had the advantage of their neighbors. The boards which furnished the material for the door and window casing of this primitive dwelling were purchased from the Kickapoo Indians and were brought from Olivers' Grove with an ox team.

Fairbury High School Basketball Records

(SEE PAGE TWO, "100 YEARS AGO" SECTION)

Season	Won	Lost	Pct.	Coach
1915-16	5	6	.454	G. R. Green
1916-17	5	5	.500	G. R. Green
1917-18 a	15	2	.882	G. R. Green
1918-19	8	4	.667	J. G. Butler
1919-20 a	10	6	.625	Ned Whitesell
1920-21 ab	9	10	.473	Ned Whitesell
1921-22 a	15	4	.789	Ned Whitesell
1922-23	10	1	.909	Ned Whitesell
1923-24	13	6	.684	Ned Whitesell
1924-25 a	13	5	.722	Norsworthy
1925-26 c	12	6	.667	Norsworthy
1926-27	13	7	.650	Ralph Arends
1927-28	17	6	.738	Ralph Arends
1928-29	14	10	.583	Ralph Arends
1929-30	17	11	.607	Ralph Arends
1930-31 a	21	4	.840	Ralph Arends
1931-32 abc	22	5	.814	Ralph Arends
1932-33	7	12	.368	Ralph Arends
1933-34	7	15	.318	J. E. Rose
1934-35	18	12	.600	J. E. Rose
1935-36 d	16	8	.667	J. E. Rose
1936-37	14	10	.583	Burdell Smith
1937-38 e	16	9	.640	Burdell Smith
1938-39 f	18	7	.720	Burdell Smith
1939-40	14	10	.583	Burdell Smith
1940-41	17	7	.708	Burdell Smith
1941-42	10	13	.434	Verne Thompson & Frank Leach
1942-43	9	10	.474	Frank Leach
1943-44 ef	18	6	.750	Luke Gleason
1944-45 f	26	5	.839	Luke Gleason
1945-46	6	18	.250	Luke Gleason
1946-47	5	16	.234	Luke Gleason
1947-48	5	19	.208	Leonard Juhl
1948-49	3	21	.125	Leonard Juhl
1949-50	6	17	.260	Leonard Juhl
1950-51	7	16	.304	Bob Hainline
1951-52 i	16	11	.591	Bob Hainline
1952-53	11	13	.459	John Reakes
1953-54	9	18	.333	John Reakes
1954-55	12	16	.428	John Reakes
1955-56 gi	16	11	.591	George Fyke
1956-57 g	23	7	.766	George Fyke
1957-58 eh	24	6	.800	George Fyke
	554	413	.572	

a County Champions
b District Winner
c Illini Conference Champions
d Big Vermilion Conference Champions
e Regional Winner
f Corn Belt Conference Champions
g Midstate Conference Champions
h United Conference Champions
i Fairbury Invitational Winners
j Dwight Invitational Winners

Golf Course Organized With 67 Members In July of 1926

The Indian Creek Golf Club was organized 32 years ago with 67 charter members. Today it has 245 members.

Present officers are: Hiram Steidinger, president; Harry Morris, vice-president; Hartzell Munz, treasurer; Lois Wessels, secretary; Roy Taylor, member of the board; Wesley Hanson, tournament chairman; Cliff Ziegenhorn, clubhouse; Clifford Stelpens, grounds and grass; Flo Armstrong, women's social chairman; Kay Dickey, Women's golf chairman; and Elias Schlipf, Men's social chairman.

The following article describing the organization of the club appeared in the July 23, 1926, issue of the Blade:

Warm weather and the band concert combined to keep down the attendance on Tuesday evening at the meeting held at the American Legion rooms for the purpose of forming a local gold club, about fifteen being present, yet those who were there possessed the necessary determination to meet and handle the business at hand.

An agreement was recently made with Conrad Munz, Sr., to rent twenty acres of land from Fourth street south to a line west from the concrete bridge and from there east to the public highway. Dr. H.N. Leonard, who will have charge of putting the course in condition, says play will be possible within a short time, perhaps by the first of the week.

At Tuesday evening's meeting an organization was completed, the necessary committees appointed, and the name, Indian Creek Golf Club, was chosen. This name, we think, is especially fortunate, and ought to arouse at least a spark of sentimental loyalty, particularly among native members, a very fair portion of whose earlier days were spent along the banks of Indian Creek.

The officers chosen were:
Pres., Perry J. Keck.
V. Pres. John F. Odell
Sec. Tres., J. W. Wade.
Board of Directors, Dr. H. N. Leonard, W. B. Mitten, A. K. Hirstein, C. R. Voris, Frank Phelps.

A committee will later draw up the constitution and by-laws.

The committee having charge of the solicitation of members have exceeded the fifty actually necessary to set the club in motion, 67 having signed, and the subscription paper will henceforth be found at Wade's drug store. The initial membership fee for the remainder of the year will be $5.00, and any who are interested in this move for a golf club are asked to call at Wade's drug store, where J. W. Wade will explain any matters not clear to the applicant.

The officers and members feel certain that once the club is in going condition, that interest will not only maintain itself but will rapidly increase. There is plenty of possibility for expansion as greater facilities become necessary, and now that the club is actually started there is every reason to believe that it is but the nucleus of what will some day be a golf and country club that will be a credit to the community, although there is felt to be no present need to rush matters. The club is content for the time being to have only the course and to let the closed cars serve as club house in case of inclement weather. As matters now stand, anyone interested in this clean, healthly sport can afford the initial

membership fee.

Practically every up-to-date small city has a golf club. In some communities even smaller than this there will be a golf and country club which would do credit to many a good sized city. In a way a golf club is a sort of barometer of a city's civic spirit—the more up-to-date small cities have them. They are a good thing for a city and place it in the ranks of the cities that not only exist but thrive and advance, not to speak of the fine, clean, healthful out-of-door exercise which they afford.

Following is the list of members who have already signed up:

Perry J. Keck, John F. Odell, L. C. Johnson, W. J. Braun, C. R. Voris, W. Patrinel, W. C. Schmidt, H. Pence, A. K. Hirstein, A. B. Foster, P. M. Hotaling, J. A. Keller, L. T. Brown, E. A. Reagel, Geo. L. Mowry, W. E. Stephey, L. W. Stephey, Orma E. Fuller, H. L. Alexander, Russell Watson, John L. Purdum, M. A. Anderson, Clara Roth, Harry Clemens, A. W. Pendergast, H. N. Leonard, F. Lee Bridgewater, Frank Phelps, F. H. Miller, Ernest Kurth, Karl V. Keck, Agnes Broadwell, Harold Dally, Dean Voorhees, Marguerite Cook, John Thompson, W. W. Garber, H. H. Phelps, Leroy Kring, C. A. Purdum, Van O. Wharton, Cora Evans, J. A. Patterson, R. B. Crawford, O. E. Lange, J. G. Masterson, R. R. Fuller, Frank Duell, John Lyons, W. B. Mitten, W. A. Marshall, H. C. Sauer, Harry J. Bach, Bertha Eppstein, C. H. Schnetzler, E. T. Lange, Conrad Munz, Jr. N. W. Hanson, C. W. Veatch, Lloyd Borngasser, John J. McGreal, E. H. Odell, C. F. Heins, Carolyn Blackwood, A. B. Claudon, Jr., Sue Baer.

Hospital Gains Auxiliary In 1953

The Fairbury Hospital Auxiliary is one of the newest service organizations of Fairbury. In January of 1953, with the completion of the new Fairbury Hospital fast becoming a reality, several women were interested in the organization of a Woman's Auxiliary to the Hospital. Mrs. Orville Lange and Mrs. Walter Burt, with this in mind, visited groups of this kind in other towns. Mr. Wm. Arends, hospital administrator and the hospital board gave approval to the proposed organization.

On February 3, 1953, the first formal meeting was held in Dominy Library with 85 ladies from Fairbury and surrounding communities in attendance. Mr. John Gerber, president of the Hospital Board, welcomed the group and appointed Mr. Arends as temporary chairman. The purposes and benefits of the proposed auxiliary and the many duties it could perform were explained. Mr. Arends appointed Mrs. Walter Burt, Mrs. Orville Lange, Mrs. Eli Moser, Mrs. Francis Lehman and Mrs. John Gerber to act as a nominating committee. Tuesday February 17 was set for the next meeting with officers to be elected at that time.

Officially named "Fairbury Hospital Auxiliary" the first officers were: Mrs. William Morris, president; Mrs. Eli Schlipf, 1st vice-president; Mrs. H. E. DeFries, 2nd vice president; Mrs. John Barber, recording secretary; Mrs. E. Herzog, assistant recording secretary; Mrs. R. Thomas, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Edw. Bach, treasurer; and Mrs. Alma Lewis James, historian.

Types of membership adopted were: Active, dues $1; Associate, dues $3; Contributing, dues $5 and Life, dues $100. The officers and members of standing committees constituted the official board and the second Friday of each month was set as the meeting date. The entire Auxiliary was to meet for quarterly meetings in March, June, September and December; The library basement was at that time the meeting place.

Mrs. DeFries and her committee drew up the by-laws that were accepted by the Auxiliary and the Hospital Board.

The first annual meeting was held in the High School Gym, March 30, 1954. Mrs. Wm. Reed of Bloomington was the guest speaker. A check for $1,800 was presented to Mr. Gerber by the president. The money was to be used for bed rails and an easy lift stretcher cart for the Hospital. Membership at this time was 236.

Mrs. Marshall presented the slate of officers selected by her committee and they were elected as follows: Mrs. Wm. Morris, president; Mrs. Ann Schlipf, 1st vice president; Mrs. Margaret DeFries, 2nd vice president; Mrs. Peg Bach, treasurer; Mrs. Marcia Barber, recording secretary; Mrs. Vivian Broadhead, assistant recording secretary; Mrs. Leslie Mies, corresponding secretary and Mrs. Alma Lewis James, historian.

The second annual meeting and banquet were held in the High School March 29, 1955. Guest speaker was Mr. Carl Rinker, administrator of Brokaw Hospital in Bloomington. The check for $3150 which was presented to the hospital board was to be used for the years projects, hot food carts, room cubicles, instrument sterilizer and suction machine. Mrs. Morris was introduced as the Fifth District Woman's Auxiliary chairman.

Mrs. Wessels, chairman of the nominating committee, presented the slate of officers. Elected were: Mrs. Orville Lange, president; Mrs. Frances Lindsay, 1st vice president; Mrs. Margaret DeFries, 2nd vice president; Mrs. Ruth Smith, treasurer; Mrs. Marcia Barber, recording secretary; Mrs. Jay Morris, assistant recording secretary; Mrs. Mary Mies, corresponding secretary and Mrs. Alma Lewis James, historian.

April 2, 1956 was the date of the third annual banquet and meeting. Mr. Emil Stahlhut, administrator of the Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital spoke on "Hospital Etiquette". Mr. Taylor accepted for the hospital board a check for $5500, to be used for the air-conditioning units, T. V. sets and gift cart. Elected for the following year were: Mrs. Flora Armstrong, president; Mrs. Frances Lindsay, 1st vice president; Mrs. Aldine Nussbaum, 2nd vice president; Mrs. Marcia Barber, recording secretary; Mrs. J. V. Kuntz, assistant recording secretary; Mrs. Wm. Morris, treasurer and Mrs. Alma Lewis James, historian.

The fourth annual meeting was held in the High School Gym on January 29, 1957. Mrs. Armstrong presented to the hospital board a check for $3000, to be used to complete the air-conditioning project started the year preceding. All officers remained to act for the next year to bring into effect the revised by-law which made January 1 to December 31, the fiscal year and elections to be held at the September quarterly meeting.

Annual summaries of committee activities were given at the annual meetings until a rule was adopted that each member receive a complete printed report within thirty days after the annual meeting.

Quarterly meetings were held on the regular days. Afternoon meetings were held in the library, several morning meetings at the Fairbury Golf Course with coffee and rolls being served by a committee. The Hospitality committee served coffee and cookies at other meetings.

Board meetings were held in the Library, the nurses dining room in the Hospital, the sewing room and

several members entertained the group in their homes.

The Snack Bar located in the lower floor reception room of the Hospital was the first major project for fund raising. Starting on a small scale and growing each year in the amount of business done and the number of volunteers working, it is the largest profit making venture of the Auxiliary. Mrs. Inez Hoffman assisted by Mrs. Marshall was the first chairman. Equipment was donated by Fairbury business people and some purchased by the Auxiliary. A variety of food items were provided by members donations. Volunteers staffed the Bar, from 8:30 a.m. until 9 p.m.; donations and hours of service were counted and recorded. Gift Shop and Sewing hours were also recorded and reported.

Opened to the public in March the Snack Bar observed National Hospital Week with an open house May 15 and 16. 125 persons from Fairbury and surrounding towns were registered. Patients, hospital visitors and hospital personnel expressed appreciation for the accommodations for the Snack Bar. As business increased, new equipment was added. At present an electric stove with oven, and an upright freezer are the major items. A local member acts as buyer for the week, purchasing the items needed each day which are not secured in quantities, delivered by truck or donated. With a more varied menu, additional chairmen were added to the roster. A member provides home made soup, another bar-b-q and one chili. Quantities are made and extra supplies are kept in the freezer. A pie chairman keeps the pie schedule up to date. Extra pies are also frozen for future use. Recently the Auxiliary has taken over the coke machine in addition to cold beverages sold from the snack bar.

Organizations in Fairbury and surrounding towns have made the snack bar a project and are responsible for filling in the schedule of workers on many days.

A Gift Shop was opened with the snack bar, Mrs. Paul Hambsch and Mrs. Bernard Kline operated it from a library table in a corner of the room. A display case was donated and the shop was open during visiting hours. It is now open with the snack bar, proceeds being banked separately.

With the need for material to make items for the shop, a novel way was introduced to provide them. The “Boodle Bag” was distributed and members returned them with material suitable for aprons and scraps of material, yarn and thread for other articles.

The Gift Shop went to the Fairbury Fair in August of 1953. A precedent was set up and upon invitation the Auxiliary has had a booth at the Fair every year. Volunteers acted as saleswomen. Some articles proved so popular that members making them for the shop took special orders, with the profits going to the Auxiliary.

With the addition of a cart stocked with toilet articles, stationary, stamps and reading books and magazines, patients in the hospital could purchase needed articles; literature was available free of charge. Volunteers visit the patients rooms several times a week.

Current magazines are provided in a special rack in the snack bar, for patients and visitors. Several magazine subscriptions are provided by the Auxiliary and others are donated. Local papers are also on sale in the snack bar. Mrs. Edith Puffer organized the first Library service.

Sewing for the hospital had been done by organizations in Fairbury; with the Auxiliary active, a sewing committee was named to provide this service. The original sewing committee was guided by Mrs. Walter Nussbaum, Mrs. John Wiedman and Mrs. T. J. Fahey. Volunteers helped with mending, making of needed new articles and made drapes and chair covers for the hospital. Recently they remade all the

drapes to fit around air-conditioning units.

Sewing was done in the Presbyterian Church until the sewing room in the hospital was made available. The increase in amounts of sewing to be done, made advisable the purchasing of new electric machines to replace donated treadle and electrified ones, new tables were added and cupboard space provided. The second and fourth Thursday of each month were set as sewing days. All day sewing with lunch were well attended too. The committee also quilted several quilts, proceeds from this were added to the Auxiliary treasury.

Mrs. Marie Wessel, chairman and Mrs. Erma Arends of the first Ways and Means Committee were responsible for introducing several money making affairs which have continued through the years. The Thrift Shop and Food Sale, held in the spring was successful and clothing left over was given to the Salvation Army.

An Old Fashioned Country Fair was a big project. A supper preceded the evenings entertainment. A country kitchen booth provided homemade baked goods, home canned jams and jellies, there was a candy booth and a gift shop with aprons, baby clothes and many other items, a special booth called Christmas Corner had for sale table decorations, fancy gift wrappings and other novelties. There were games for the younger ones and a “jitney table” dispensed sandwiches, salad, dessert, coffee and milk for those who desired refreshments.

The theme remained the same each year with the addition of a white elephant auction, fortune telling and games of various kinds. An evening of fun was always planned for the entire family.

Each year the Auxiliary has had a lunch stand the day of the Fairbury Community Sale.

Auxiliary members acted as official hostesses for the open house of the Fairbury Hospital, conducting tours and providing refreshments.

Membership Chairman, Mrs. Eli Schlipf, 1st vice president, made available blanks which made it possible for each new member to designate which activity of the Auxiliary she was interested in and the type of membership she desired. This type of blank is still in use and the various chairmen have them available for use in contacting workers on their committees. The 1957 role contained 243 names. There are three life members, Mrs. Lloyd Borngasser, Mrs. Arthur H. Stephan and Miss Ruth Taylor.

The corresponding secretaries sent out notices of all meetings and reports of all committees and published a membership list.

Area papers furnished advertising and publicity for the activities and members in several towns were responsible for posters and publicity in their local area.

Only names on the first committees and the officers elected each year are mentioned in this history. Many have remained to take a place on the same or other committees and new names have been added. These and all the members of the Fairbury Hospital Auxiliary have provided the time and effort needed to make this history possible.

As the year 1957 nears and end committees are busy preparing annual reports and planning the final big project. A festival on November 23 in the Legion Hall, will feature a light lunch at noon and a spaghetti supper. There will also be a gift shop, bake sale, candy shop and white elephant auction.

In 1957 the first nurses scholarship was awarded to Miss Betty Ellis of Chenoa. To be awarded each year the scholarship was set up to encourage girls in the area to enter the nursing profession.

Officers elected at the September meeting who will be installed at the annual meeting are: Mrs. Victor Armstrong, president; Mrs. Hazel Rathbun, 1st vice president; Mrs. Marcia Barber, 2nd vice president; Mrs. Norma Swearingen, secretary; Mrs. Clara Morris, assistant secretary; Mrs. William Morris, treasurer; Mrs. Ada Bennett corresponding secretary and Mrs. Roy Bachtold, historian.

Jolly Girls In 1940—

Left to right: Mrs. Wm. Huddleston, Mrs. Edw. Yeagle, Mrs. Ray Farley, Mrs. Fred Schenck, Mrs. Earl Hanes, Mrs. Veco Leffingwell, Mrs. Fred Jacobs, Mrs. Orland Kridner, Mrs. Harold Dameron, Mrs. John Wink, Mrs. Remmert Heins, Mrs. Royal Jacobs, (deceased), Mrs. Chas. Ambrose, Mrs. Louis Heins, Mrs. Roy Klein, Mrs. Fred Cooper, and Mrs. Webster Busby (deceased). Mrs. Bert Tuttich, Mrs. Margaret Bauman and Mrs. Roy Jacobs were absent when the picture was taken.

Jolly Girls in this picture, taken a number of years ago, are, seated, Miss Pearl Graves, Mrs. Freda Wernsman Ambrose, holding Mildred Cooper Bach; Mrs. Margaret Wink Bauman, holding Dorren Heins. Standing are Mrs. Gladys Blair Timm, Mrs. Lorene Kilpatrick Lenhasusen, Mrs. Lilia Loper Huddleston, Mrs. Lillian Farley Hanes, Mrs. Christine Roeseler Jacobs, Miss Margaret Murphy, Mrs. Helen Eckhart Tutlich, Mrs. Hazel Farley Leffingwell, Mrs. Minta Ziller Appegaard, Mrs. Edna Kilpatrick, unidentified, Mrs. Effie Slown Cooper, Mrs. Martha Wollezien Heins.

The Jolly Girls

The Jolly Girls Circle was organized on October 21, 1916, at the home of Lillian and Hazel Farley in Weston with the membership consisting of young ladies living in and near the Weston Community. The members since that time have continued to meet the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Although the members live in different localities in Chenoa, Fairbury, Weston, Pontiac, Emington, Bloomington and Peoria.

There are ten charter members still living, namely: Lillian Farley Hanes, Hazel Farley Leffingwell, Ella Wollenzein Heins, Martha Wollenzein Heins, Lelia Loper Huddleston, Freda Wernsman Ambrose, Effie

Slown Cooper, Helen Harrington Yeagle.

Other members who joined the group later are Margaret Wink Bauman, Christine Roeseler Jacobs, Elva Myer Jacobs, Betty Myer Farley, Delore s Taylor Wink, Clara Huling Kridner. Verna Schenk, Beulah Cornwell Dameron, Mary Wernsman Busby was a member until her death in 1950 and Elma Ploense Jacobs died recently. Many others were members but have since moved away from the community.

The club have many family parties on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years, also Halloween. They have supported many charitable drives such as Red Cross, Cancer, Heart fund, Polio. The Fairbury Hospital, St. James Hospital in Pontiac, The Baby Fold and The McLean Co. Sanatorium, supported a Belgium War Orphan and a 4-H Girl. Also donated to shut in's at various times

The first President of the club was Miss Clara Sneed (since moved away) who was a rural grade school teacher at that time. The present President is Freda Ambrose of Fairbury.

On Oct. 21 of 1956 this group entertained their husbands at a very colorful banquet and party held at the Coral cup cafe in Chatsworth to celebrate their 40th anniversary.

Von Tobel Had First Lumber Yard

What is believed to have been the first lumber yard in Fairbury was operated by Jacob Von Tobel.

Mrs. J. N. Bach, Sr., the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Von Tobel, recalls that her father arrived in this community completely unknown and with three dollars in his pocket.

SUCH WAS Von Tobel's character, however, that he remained friendless not very long. His strong will and determination soon caught the eye of other Fairburians, and moved Issaac Walton to make a gift of his saw mill to Von Tobel around 1867.

Von Tobel's first operations consisted of felling trees in the timber and hauling them to the saw mill, which was located at what is now the corner of Fourth and Walnut streets.

From this beginning developed the first lumber yard, which was located at the east end of what is now Central Park.

IT WAS IN 1899, Mrs. Bach remembers, that the city first decided to make use of the ground for a park, and their interest in the property led Von Tobel to sell the holdings, after making a great success of his venture.

It was in the Von Tobel yard that the late J. N. Bach, Sr. received his apprenticeship in the lumber business, and two years following the departure of Mr. Von Tobel, Mr. Bach opened the lumber yard which his sons, Edward and Harry, operate at this time.

Emory Gregg Last G.A.R. Veteran Honored In Memorial Day Parade

To the people of this community born somewhere around the turn of this century, the "old soldiers", veterans of the Civil War, are vivid and inspiring memories. One of the last of the group to ride and to

be honored in a Memorial Day parade was Emory Gregg who was for many years postmaster of Fairbury. His influence was felt not only in the G.A.R. but in politics and in the Masonic orders to which he was devoted.

Mr. Gregg's family has in its possession the letters he wrote to his parents during his service to the Union cause. The letters are valuable source material for any historian who may wish to write an account of how threatened attacks on the Capitol and the state of Maryland were thwarted and the spectacular raiding of the Shenandoah Valley by units of Sheridan's forces in the last autumn of the war. Emory Gregg was a member of company H of the 9th New York Brigade.

Mr. Gregg is remembered in this vicinity for his staunch Republicanism and as a wheel-horse for his party. This dated back to the very beginning of Lincoln's national leadership. In a letter he wrote to his father from Camp Remount, Maryland, on October 31, 1864 about a week before Lincoln's second election, he said: "Have you heard anything more about me being called a copperhead? I would as soon be called a deserter. I go in for "old Abe". I go in for the Union and the submission of all traitors. I am not a voter for him" (he was too young to vote)," but I fight for him and who could do better? I carry his likeness pinned to my vest collar and calculate to carry it there until this is over."

For those interested in a comparison of soldiering in the Civil War and now, the letters contain a mine of information. In a letter from Loudon County, Virginia, written on Jan. 4, 1865, he said: "We are here to prevent any sly attack on Washington. The weather is very cold-snawed last night and today blows a hurricane- cold to be without any tents, have slept on the ground for a week; will get up our cabin by tomorrow night- plenty of timber for a hut and stones for a chimney. Please hurry up my boots- the soles are almost off mine." In a letter written about a month earlier, he had requested food from home saying: "We have paid more for something to eat than anything else: Old soldiers say we do not get but three-fourths rations". There are many references to the skill of the soldiers in foraging for provisions.

Many of Mr. Gregg's letters were directed to his father, the Rev. Martin B. Gregg who then had a pastorate at Orangeville, New York, in Wyoming County. Toward the end of the war, the minister was contemplating a move in the hopes of improved health. This move was accomplished and the Rev. Gregg became one of the early pastors of the First Presbyterian church and accounts for the establishment of his family in this community.

Emory Gregg married Minerva Henderson, the daughter of a pioneer family who came here about 1855 or 1856, purchasing the land from the government and developing the land south west of town now owned by Edward Huber estate and Chris Meiss. There were four children, Olin H. now of Columbus, Ohio, the late Miss Gertrude, Charles E., of Fairbury and N. Walter of Washington D. C. Mrs. Gregg was a sister-in-law of one of Fairbury's most prominent early citizens, Captain Cyrus Baird who organized, drilled and lead to war a company of young men from this vicinity who fought for the north.

Submitted by Bernice Powell Gregg.

City Council 50 Years Ago

The city council 50 years ago was composed of E. S. Wilson, mayor; Marshall Gordon and A. E. Chambers, second ward aldermen; A. B. Claudon and Henry Weber, first ward alderman; R. J. Codlin and Dr. J. R. Rayburn, third ward aldermen; G. W. Bennett, city clerk; T. W. O. McDowell, city treasurer and J. H. McFadden, city attorney.

OES Chapter Formed Here In 1891

Fairbury Chapter No. 198 of the Order of the Eastern Star of Illinois was organized May 26th 1891 by The Worthy Grand Matron of Illinois, Mrs. Sue M. Simpson of Peoria. The Worthy Grand Patron, Mr. George F. Howard could not be present and had deputized Mr. Noah Pike of Chenoa to perform his duties in the organization ceremonies. The following names are listed on the Charter:

Susan Bronson
Lois A Virgin
Sarah E. Robinson
Edna M. Barnes
Anna B. Wade
Lan M. Carrithers
Ella B. Barnes
Emma J. Babcock
Olive James
May C. Hopkins
Hattie A. Merit
Maggie Scouler
Frank L. Churchill
Benjamin E. Robinson

Mr. Pike then administered the obligation of the Order to the Fourteen present and formed the Fairbury chapter with:

Mrs. Sarah E. Robinson, Worthy Matron
Frank L. Churchill, Worthy Patron
Mrs. Ella B. Barnes, Associate matron
Miss Edna M. Barnes, secretary
Susan Bronson, Treasurer
Miss Belle Wade, Conductress
Mrs. Lan M. Carrithers, Associate Conductress
Benj. Robinson, Sentinel
Mrs. Anna B. Wade, Adah
Mrs. Olive James, Ruth
Mrs. Hattie A. Merit, Esther
Mrs. Lois A. Virgin, Martha
Mrs. Maggie Scouler, Electa

These Officers were assigned their respective positions and duties by The Worthy Grand Matron who then declared Fairbury Chapter U. D. Organized and ready for business.

The Charter was granted at the annual session of the Grand Chapter of Illinois held October 7th 1891 and was delivered to the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of Fairbury Chapter.

A Special Dispensation was granted to receive and ballot on Petitions and confer the Degrees on the same evening. The Petitioners were Miss Belle Wade, Miss Fanny Cramer, Miss Jeanette Oyler, Miss Marv Veatch. Mrs. M. E. Gillette, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Wade, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Mahoney T. T. Babcock, C. F. H. Carrithers, W. C. Wade, S. M. Barnes, Edward Bangs, Dr. J. R. Rayburn and C. J. Merit. All were elected to receive the degrees of the Order.

Officers of Star of Bethlehem Chapter No. 114 of Chenoa opened the chapter in due form and the Initiation ceremony was conferred on the Sixteen candidates.

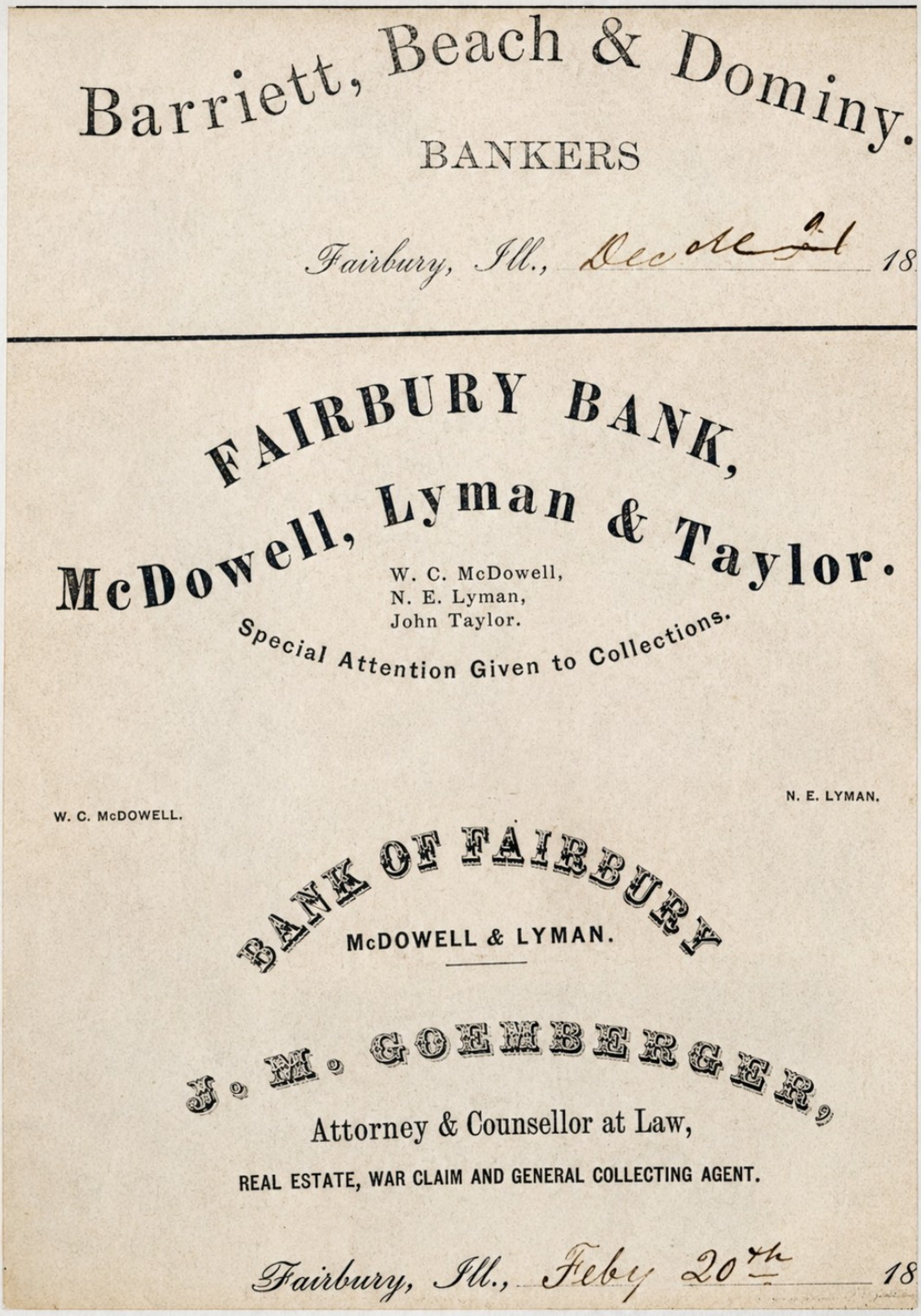
The committee appointed on By-laws were C. F. H. Carrithers Fanny Cramer and Jeanette Oyler.

The second Tuesday evening of each month was selected for the meetings and on June 16, 1893 it was decided to hold two meetings each month and the fourth Tuesday evening was decided upon for the second meeting night of each month.

In Illinois we have The Eastern Home Located at Rockford and The Eastern Star Sanitarium located at Macon.

The officers for this year are:

Mrs. Dennesa C. Ernest, worthy matron
James A. Peters, worthy patron
Mrs. Hazel Decker, associate matron
Virgil Troehler, associate patron
Mrs. Lulu E. Harper, secretary
Mrs. Bertha M. Zeh, treasurer
Mrs. Bernice Bess, conductress
Mrs. Margaret Beatty, chaplain
Mrs. Marie Wessel, marshal
Mrs. Eula Mae Veatch, organist
Miss Dorothy Rudd, Adah



Barriett, Beach & Dominy.

BANKERS

Fairbury, Ill., Dec 1st 18

FAIRBURY BANK,

McDowell, Lyman & Taylor.

W. C. McDowell,
N. E. Lyman,
John Taylor.

Special Attention Given to Collections.

W. C. McDOWELL. N. E. LYMAN.

BANK OF FAIRBURY

McDOWELL & LYMAN.

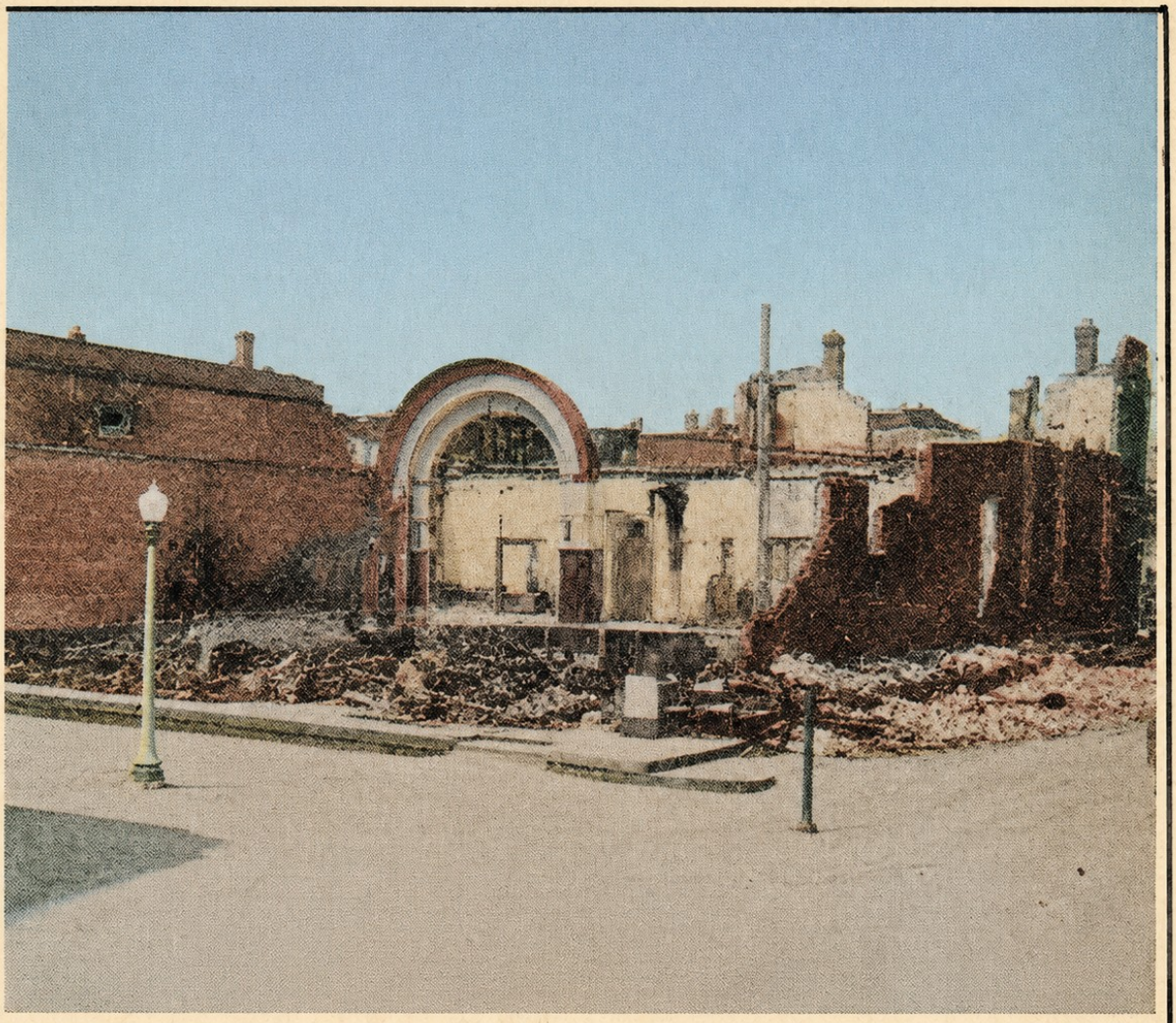
J. M. GOEMBERGER,

Attorney & Counsellor at Law,

REAL ESTATE, WAR CLAIM AND GENERAL COLLECTING AGENT.

Fairbury, Ill., Feby 20th 18

Letterheads of some of the early business establishments are reproduced above.

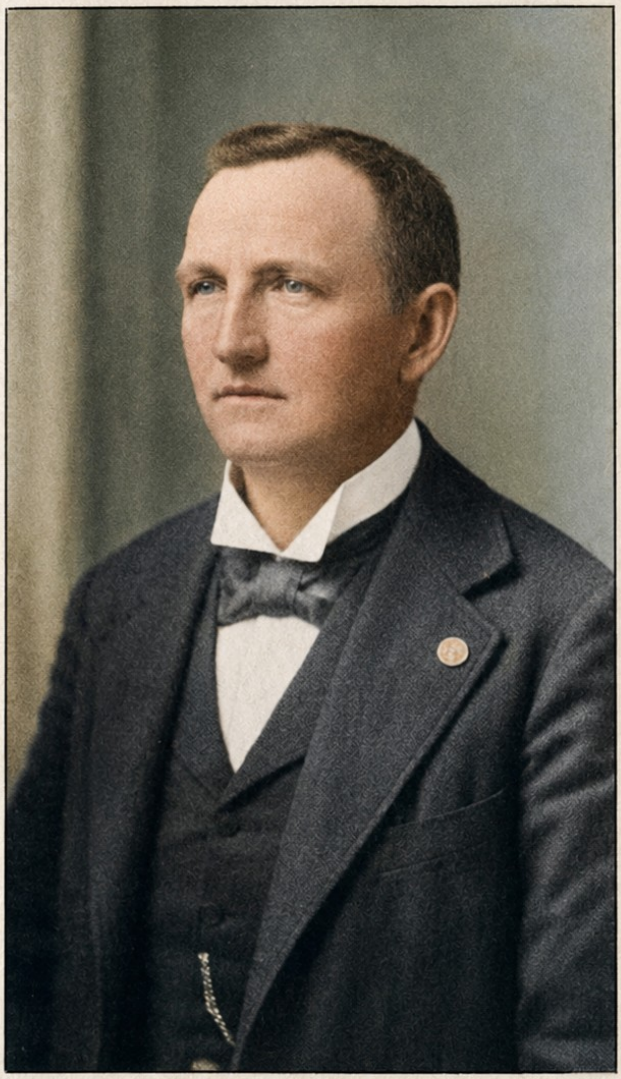


Ruins of Walton Dept. Store following the fire of March 23, 1923, are shown in this picture owned by Marshall Gordon.

Present building was begun in fall of the same year, and completed the following spring.

This picture shows the Walton building which immediately preceded the present structure and at the same location.

Ruins of Walton Dept. Store following the fire of March 23, 1923, are shown in this picture owned by Marshall Gordon.



Charles Keck

P. C. James

The degree staff of the Rebekahs posed for this picture, about 1930. They are, left to right, top row: Mary Lange, Jeannie Carter, Carrie Fry. Second from top: Mrs. Calkins, M. Ulfers, Mrs. A. Milne, Bertha Martin, Hallie Cumpston. Third row: Laura Shroyer, Orrell Drennen, Nellie Robinson, Flo Nickerson , Flora McKee.

Fourth from top Mable Denarske, Mayme Goslin, Pearl Arthur. Bottom row: Mrs. Bittner, Mrs. Ida Hollenback.

This shot of the Shakespeare club goes back a bit further. Members are, left to right, front row, Mrs. Esther Mitten, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Carl Moore, Mrs. Leila Odell and Mrs. Verle Voris.

Second row, Mrs. Ruby Morrison, Mrs. Lucretia Steinberg and two guests.

Back row, Mrs. Alice Martin, Mrs, Reynolds, guest; Mrs. Dillon, guest; Mrs. Nellie Reynolds, guest; Mrs. Mabel Haymond, Mrs. Ella Lewis, Mrs. Grace Greene, Mrs. Nora Wilson, Miss Sarah Bennett, Mrs. Sarah Crowe, Mrs. Eva Burns, Mrs. Lottie Brewer, Mrs. Mamie Kring, Mrs. Ella Reynolds, Miss Zella Crouch, Mrs. Edna Anderson, Mrs. Lura Westervelt.

Beach & Dominy Dissolve Firm Here In 1894

Taken from issue of June 16, 1894

The banking firm of Beach & Dominy, which has carried on the Fairbury bank for the last twenty years, was formally dissolved last Thursday by mutual arrangement between the partners. Mr. Beach retired at that date from the business of which Mr. Dominy, the junior partner, assumed entire control and which he will carry on without interruption, he assuming all liabilities and becoming owner of all the assets.

The firm of Beach & Dominy was organized in 1870 to carry on the hardware business. Four years afterward they entered the banking business which they have ever since carried on and in which they have made a reputation for absolute soundness, square dealing and liberal conduct toward their patrons second to none in the state. They have always been the most conservative of financiers and have deservedly enjoyed to the fullest extent the confidence of the public. The financial storm of last year which wrecked so many banks only confirmed and strengthened this confidence and left them if possible in a stronger position than before.

The withdrawal of Mr. Beach from the partnership will not at all affect the responsibility of the concern, as Mr. Dominy is the fortunate possessor of abundant wealth to secure his patrons several times over. He owns about 1600 acres of good land besides the bank assets and plenty of other property, and as he has been the most active manager of the bank its success and high standing are in full measure his own. He has held several public offices of trust and is at this time treasurer of the village and has been treasurer of the fair society fifteen years. Nobody is better known, better liked or more trusted than “Ren” Dominy and no one has better deserved it.

E. E. Westervelt, the trusted accountant, will still keep the books.

Mr. Beach’s influence and business will remain with the bank.

Opera House Old In 1917

(Taken from issue March 16, 1917)

A deal was closed Monday evening whereby the ownership of the Fairbury opera house changed hands, Messrs. J. E. Eddy and Emil Keller purchasing the same from Phil Wade, the price paid being $2,000.

The new proprietors of the opera house will make a number of changes in the building, making it modern in every way. The balcony floor will be leveled off by removing the wooden tires upon which the chairs were placed, and in their place a dining room and kitchen will be built. Underneath the bacony there will be the two ante-rooms as now, but they will be fitted up with toilets and lavatories, and in every way made convenient for the patrons of the house. The interior will be redecorated throughout, and with the other improvements mentioned will make a fine place for dances, parties, and other social gatherings. A new roof will also be placed on the building.

The hall, which in recent years has been used mostly for dances and basket ball games is 50X100 feet, and was built in 1870 by the citizens of Fairbury, and dedicated by Robert Ingersol. C. C. Bartlett then

bought T. E. DuBois. In September, 1891, a stock company was formed and took over the Fairbury opera house. This stock company was composed of I. B. Dominy, S. M. Barnes, T. E. DuBois, Will and Phil Wade. The latter gentleman, as the years went by, purchased the stock of the other gentlemen.

Before the Central opera house was built the Fairbury opera house staged some as good shows and as clever actors and actresses as ever showed in any city, large or small. Among some of the footlight artists who played in the Fairbury opera house and who were in later years known from coast to coast were Ezra Kendall, Bob Graham, Jessie Mae Hall and several others. This hall has also been the scene of many a brilliant social gathering, not only in recent years, but before the fox trot, waltz or two-step were heard of, and the square dance held full sway.

Although the building has seen many years of service it is also good for many more years of use.

Early group of Shakespeare club members are, left to right, front row, Mrs. Grace Greene, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Lucretia Steinberg, Mrs. E. W. Powers and son.

Back row, Mrs. Emma Mitten, Mrs. George Thorpe, Mrs. Hutchins, Mrs. Sarah Crowe, Mrs. Lottie Brewer, Miss Sarah Bennett, Mrs. Eva Burns, Mrs. Bertha Gordon, Mrs, Shaw, Mrs. Edna Anderson, Mrs. Ida Foster, Mrs. Manie Kring and Mrs. Ella Lewis.

IOOF Is Secret, Social Society

The Independent order of Oddfellows is a secret benevolent and social society and subsequently a friendly benefit society also having mystic signs of recognition, initiatory rites and ceremonies and various grades of dignity and honour.

Great antiquity has been claimed for the order of Oddfellows, but the members themselves now generally admit that the institution cannot be traced back beyond the first half of the 18th century, and explain the name as adopted at a time when the severance into sects and classes was so wide that persons aiming at social union and mutual help were a marked exception to the general rule.

Mention is made by Daniel Defoe, English author who died in 1731, of the society of Oddfellows, but the oldest lodge of which the name has been handed down is the LOYAL ARISTARCUS No. 9, which met in 1745 at the Boar's Head in Smithfield, England.

The earliest lodges were supported by each member and visitor paying a penny to the secretary on entering the lodge and special sums were voted to any brother in need.

The lodges gradually adopted a definite common ritual and became confederated under the name of the Patriotic Order.

Towards the end of the century many of the lodges were broken up by State prosecutions on the suspicion that their purposes were seditious but the society continued to exist as the Union order of Oddfellows until 1809. In 1813 at a convention in Manchester, England was formed the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity, which spread rapidly through the industrial districts of the north of England and eventually extended its Lodges throughout the whole country.

The ritual and symbolism of Oddfellowship, its professions of secrecy, with signs and passwords, no less than its charitable designs made a strong appeal to the social instincts of the tradesman and the better-paid artisan so that it now overshadows all the minor societies in England.

Oddfellows was introduced into the United States from the Manchester Unity in 1819, and the grand lodge of Maryland and the parent lodge of the United States was constituted on February 22nd 1821. It now rivals in membership and influence the Manchester Unity, from which it severed its connection in 1842.

In 1843 it issued a dispensation for opening the Prince of Wales Lodge No. 1 in Montreal, Canada.

The American society, including Canada and the United States has its headquarters at Baltimore and now ranks among the leading secret or fraternal societies in terms of membership.

Organizations connected either with the U. S. or England have been founded in France, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, The Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Poland, Czechoslavakia, The British Dominions and elsewhere.

In 1860 a group of men in Fairbury headed by John F. Blackburn, John J. Young, Wm. H. Stilwell, John Zimmerman and John F. Bowen organized what is now known as Livingston Lodge No. 290 and a charter was issued to them on October 12th 1860, and the Fairbury Encampment No. 71, a higher

branch of the order, was instituted in 1867. However, on March 22nd 1875 a fire completely destroyed the building that housed the lodge, and the charter, regalia, books and all records went up in smoke. A new charter was issued to them on October 13th 1875.

An additional lodge, Marshfield Lodge No. 393 was instituted in Fairbury on June 25th, 1869 and like its sister lodge, was completely destroyed by fire on Nov. 16, 1886 but this lodge never reorganized and its members joined the Livingston Lodge.

On Nov. 22nd 1938, Cropsey Lodge No. 894 and on April 19th 1949, Good will Lodge of Forrest consolidated with Livingston Lodge. Today it boasts a membership of 260 with Mel A. Anderson holding the longest continued membership of any living Oddfellow that was initiated into this lodge, Mel having been initiated in 1893.

In 1894 the board of trustees, made up of W. H. Robinson, J. T. Moberly, W. L. Waggoner, G. B. Gordon and T. O. Cook began planning for a new home to house the lodge. They purchased from James Wade, grandfather of Harry Bodley, one of the present trustees, his livery stable and in 1895 appointed the following building committee. T. A. McKenzie, T. D. George, W. W. Wonser, T. G. Henderson and John Zimmerman, who in turn retained J. K. Shook, building contractor and Jessie Stevens to supply the building materials and the present home of the Oddfellows came into being.

On Nov. 23rd 1893 a charter was issued to the Charity Home Re-Becah Lodge, and on October 21, 1936 the T. M. T. M. Theta Rho Girls Club was chartered.

The present officers of Livingston Lodge are:

N. G. — Bruce Barnes
V. G. — John Mundell
P. N. G. — Albert L. Bess
Rec. Sec. — Tom Milne
Finan. Sec. — R. P. Deputy
Treasurer — Geo. Vance

Trustees:
Phil Thompson
C. M. Wessels
H. E. Bodley
Martin Spence
Alf. Callaby

Alf Callaby is also the lodge deputy and W. W. Ziller is district deputy representing district 42.

Five Football Teams Have Gone Undefeated for F.H.S.

In the 47 years since 1912 in which Fairbury high school has played other accredited high schools in football games, they have chalked up five undefeated seasons.

Three of these seasons were blemished by one or more ties, leaving two seasons in which the team was undefeated and untied.

THE PERFECT SEASONS were recorded in 1917 when the team won all five of its games, and in 1950, when the Tartars marched unscathed through a nine game schedule.

Other undefeated seasons were 1925 (4-0-3), 1931 (7-0-1) and 1935 (8-0-1).

The 1917 edition coached by C. R. Voris, had only two touchdowns scored against it, both by a tough El Paso team which lost only two games that year—both to Fairbury. The Green and Gold of that year bested Watseka 20-0, Eureka 33-0, and then nudged El Paso twice by the same score of 13-6.

THE FIRST EL PASO GAME was one of those never-to-be-forgotten affairs. Both teams were strong and supporters of each side were looking for a victory. The tilt was played on the El Paso field, and as was common practice in those days, the home team furnished the headlinesman. This circumstance was almost to end the game before it was officially over.

On the third play of the game, an El Paso player circled end and ran 60 yards for a touchdown, giving the home team a 6-0 lead. Late in the second period Mundel scored for Fairbury following a sustained drive. The half ended 6-6.

In the first half, the headlinesman snapped a pass to Don Karnes who took the ball across for a touchdown. The El Paso headlinesman waited until the referee positioned the ball for the extra try before announcing Karnes had not been five yards behind the line of scrimmage as the rules provided.

The referee promptly disallowed the touchdown. This brought a storm of protest from the Fairbury side concerning the El Paso official's authority to call such a penalty during the game, but the touchdown nevertheless was called back.

The dispute seemed to stir up the determination of the Fairbury lads and Mundell promptly executed a beauty of a pass to Stafford, who made a remarkable catch and plunged over the goal for the winning score.

El Paso took the kickoff with the field growing dark because of the lateness of the hour and marched down the field to the Fairbury goal. With the ball on the one yard line, time ran out and Fairbury was victorious 13-6.

In the first half, the headlinesman, who, as explained above, was from El Paso, had taken it upon himself to call two penalties against Fairbury, contrary to the agreement. During the intermission, a discussion between authorities of the two schools was held, and it was decided that the El Paso official would not be allowed to call any additional penalties.

IN THE THIRD period, Fairbury marched to the El Paso one yard line, but was stopped on downs. The third quarter ended with the score still 6-6.

It was in the fourth period that the game almost came to its untimely end. Floyd Stafford whipped a pass to Don Karnes, who took the ball across for the touchdown. The El Paso headlinesman waited until the referee had positioned the ball for the extra point try before announcing that Stafford had not been five yards behind the line of scrimmage, as the rules provided.

The referee promptly disallowed the touchdown. This brought a storm of protest from the Fairbury side

concerning the El Paso official's authority to call such a penalty during the game, but the touchdown nevertheless was called back.

The dispute seemed to stir up the determination of the Fairbury lads and Mundell promptly executed a beauty of a pass to Stafford, who made a remarkable catch and plunged over the goal for the winning score.

El Paso took the kickoff, and, with the field growing dark because of the lateness of the hour, marched down the field to the Fairbury goal. With the ball on the one yard line, time ran out, and Fairbury was the winner, 13-6.

SO CLOSE HAD been the game that a re-match in Fairbury was arranged for on Thanksgiving Day. It was almost an identical replay of the first game, Fairbury winning it by the same score, 13-6, with El Paso moving the ball toward the Fairbury goal late in the game, only to be stopped a few feet short of a touchdown by the end of the game.

The winning touchdown came for Fairbury in the third quarter when Jim Beggs, left end for Fairbury intercepted an El Paso pass and ran 45 yards for the score.

The line-up used through most of the 1917 season by Fairbury was as follows: Karnes, re; Stuckey, rt; Presler, rg; Orendorf, c; Clemens, lg; Gibb, le; Roach, qb; Mundell rhb; Stafford lhb; and Morrison, fb. Beggs, Scharlach and Beshers were others who saw much action.

THE 1925 TEAM went through their seven game schedule unbeaten but tied three times, and won the Illini conference championship.

The team played for the first time in the newly formed Illini conference, which was made up of, in addition to Fairbury, Forrest, Chenoa, Dwight, Eureka, Pontiac, Lexington, Gridley, El Paso and Minonk.

The Green and Gold opened with a 0-0 tie against Cullom. In the first conference game of the season, a 30-yard touchdown run in the second quarter by Reuben Steidinger and a conversion boot by Alvin Tipton gave the locals a 7-6 win over El Paso.

In the midst of a rain and snow storm, and with the field a sea of mud, Fairbury and Le Roy battled to a scoreless tie in the third game of the season. Because of the bad weather, the first two quarters were reduced to ten minutes in length, and the final two periods to only eight minutes.

THE FOLLOWING WEEK the team played in another drizzle of rain, squeezing out a 7-0 victory over Forrest. The Fairbury score came in the second period on a line plunge by Tipton. He also kicked the extra point. In the closing minutes, Forrest passed to the Fairbury five yard line, but the Eskimos then lost 35 yards in the next three plays, and the game ended shortly thereafter.

The third tie of the season, a 7-7 standoff against a powerful Paxton team, was a moral victory for the locals. Paxton was very strong, and newspaper accounts credited Fairbury with an upset in holding the Mustangs to a tie.

Paxton held a 7-0 lead after the first half, but with Tipton and Steidinger — the "Flying Dutchman" — leading the way, the Fairbury team swept downfield to the Paxton five yard line in the third quarter.

Thompson then crashed over for the score, and with the Fairbury rooters in a frenzy, Tipton booted the extra point squarely between the goal posts.

Fairbury was back on the Paxton five yard line and was in the process of attempting a field goal when the game ended.

Still unable to score more than one touchdown in a game, but with the defense as strong as ever, the 1925 team next downed Pontiac, 6-0.

A PERFECTLY EXECUTED pass from Tipton to Steidinger in the third quarter was the only score in the game. It was completely unexpected, and produced a huge ovation from the over 200 Fairbury fans who had followed the team to the county seat for the game.

The Illini conference championship was clinched against Chenoa as the offense finally began to click and produced a 25-13 victory. The locals, with a 4-0 conference record, shared the crown with Gridley.

Members of the 1925 team, which was coached by J. H. Norsworthy, were as follows: Dean Carter, John Thompson, Edwin Koerner, Henry Henderson, Alvin Tipton, Otis Law, Roy Noe, Emery Fincham, Warren Stephey, Capt. Reuben Steidinger, Richard Stevens, Roger Weeks, Harold Dally, Maurice Brown, Jack Huette, William Friant, Carlos Thompson, Raymond Hornbeck, Chester French, Harold Funkhouser, Robert Smilie, Raymond Sauer, William Menton, Charles Barker, John Mattioli, Lowell French, Arthur Bently, Kenneth Masters, Lester Wessels and Pete Fincham.

THE 1931 TEAM was next in the line of undefeated Fairbury football aggregations, and it constructed it's 7-0-1 record against tough opposition. The team never came close to defeat until, in the last game of the season, they were forced to settle for a 6-6 tie with Pontiac.

Previous to that, they had beaten Le Roy 32-0, Forrest 33-6, Eureka 25-0, Dwight 32-7, El Paso 40-0, Rantoul 12-0, and Trinity 26-13.

Fairbury scored first in the Pontiac game, the TD coming on a 28-yard pass from Virgil Munz to Clifford Henderson. Pontiac scored early in the third period, and neither team threatened seriously the rest of the game, although Fairbury was able to get within 12 yards of pay dirt in the fourth period.

The team scored a total of 206 points to their opponents 32. It was coached by "Hap" Arends.

Team members were Leslie Johnson, Alvin Hartman, Lyle Kurth, Francis Wilkin, John Weber, Jean Bedell, Virgil Munz, Frank Slaight, Harold Ferguson, Victor Demler, Hartzell Munz, Dean Householder, John Darnall, Robert Roth, Keith Hayes, Arnold Convis, Walter Paternoster, Carl Tipton, Hartford Patterson, Robert Bartlett, Clifford Henderson, Clarence King, Arnold Huddleston, and John Wink. Wilbur Toehler and John Wade were managers.

FOUR YEARS LATER, the third undefeated season in 11 years was produced. Many have called the 1935 team the greatest in Fairbury history, and when the opposition it faced, and the margins of victory are considered, the claim seems well substantiated.

The only blemish on the record was a scoreless tie with Ottawa. Included in the string of eight victories were two over otherwise undefeated teams, Dwight, 26-20 and Chenoa, 8-0. The locals scored 219 points while holding their opponents to 34.

Other victories came over Farmer City, 28-7; Forrest, 33-0; Normal, 31-0; Le Roy, 40-0; Morris, 27-0; and Pontiac, 26-7. The margin of victory over the Indian's was the biggest ever made by the Tartars to this time.

At the completion of the 1935 season, John Purdum, veteran local sports fan, was moved to remark, "I have seen every game for the last 35 years, and they are the best fighting team Fairbury high school ever produced".

The big game of the year was the last, when the Green and Gold defeated the unbeaten Chenoa Redbirds, 8-0 on a muddy, sloppy Chenoa field. The first half ended in a 0-0 tie, but in the third quarter Bill Beckley got away a beautiful punt to the Chenoa 12 yard line, and moments later blocked an attempted Chenoa boot. The ball bounded into the end zone where a Chenoa man fell on it for a safety and two points for Fairbury.

Downing passed eight yards to Addis in the end zone for the only touchdown of the game in the fourth period. The Tartars threatened again in the final quarter the game ending with them in possession of the ball on the Chenoa one-foot line.

Playing on the 1935 team were Wilken, F. Householder, Lester Gouge, Ward, Rinkenberger, Cooper, Zimmerman, Warren Beckley, Dunn, J. Downing, Knott, Wink, Garland, Bedell, Beckley, Addis, Householder, Somerville, Bennett, Mowery, Spence, Blair, Downing, Barnes, Tipton, Dickson, Hallock, R. Jarvis, Ferguson, Kurth, Beatty, Vail, Alt, and K. Jarvis. Ross was coach.

IT WAS 15 YEARS before another Fairbury football team could claim the distinction of being undefeated. The 1950 squad became the fifth undefeated team, and the second undefeated and untied team in Fairbury history.

Again, it was a Chenoa team over which the Tartars clinched a perfect record. Playing in 26-degree weather on a frozen, windswept field, The Green and Gold twice came from behind to defeat the Redbirds, 13-12 with a touchdown in the last 53 seconds of play. With the victory went a co-championship of the Midstate conference with Gridley, who Fairbury did not play.

On a basis of record alone, the 1950 season was the best in Fairbury history with nine wins, no losses and no ties.

The wins came over Cornell, 19-13; Flanagan, 34-16; Pontiac, 19-14; Dwight, 12-0; Lexington, 47-0; El Paso, 27-7; Minonk, 27-0; Forrest, 33-0; and Chenoa, 13-12.

Squad members were Allen Gouge, John Mapel, Don Tollensdorf, Bob Doran, Randall Kiper, Daren Cox, Ted Doran, Wayne Schuler, Gerald Weeks, Vernon Garmon, Dale Albee, Harold Runyon, Virgil Kyburz, Francis Sears, Duane Kilgus, Morton Shulman, Gary Elliott, Phillip "Bud" Golsin, Dick Ramseyer, Paul Hoffman, Bill Goslin, Keith Runyon, Jack Tomlison, Charles Maley, Larry Elliott, John Burt, Allan Durham, Walter Kohlman and Lyle Strode. Coaches were Bob Hainline and Bob Foard. Ernest Shult was manager.

WALTON BROS. CO. STORE WIPED OUT IN $300,000 FIRE

Reprinting of March 30, 1923 Blade article

In a fire that did damage to an amount estimated at between $250,000 and $300,000, the general merchandise store of Walton Bros. Co. was completely wiped out early Wednesday morning, adjoining buildings damaged to the extend of hundreds of dollars and a portion of the business and residence district threatened. Following the fire of Walton Bros. Co. the railroad station caught on fire an was damaged to the extent of $3,500 or $4,000. Those having offices in the Walton building also suffered a complete loss and several of them had no insurance. Just whether or not Walton Bros. Co. will rebuild is a matter that has not yet been settled.

Fire Discovered by R. J. Codlin at About Four O'clock

It was just about four o'clock Wednesday morning when R. J. Codlin, who was going down the alley back of the store to his barn to get ready to drive some people to Forrest, noticed a light in the basement. He thought it was a fire, after he had started to the telephone office to have the telephone operator, Mrs. George Larkin, send in an alarm. When he came out, after informing Mrs. Larking of the fire, there seemed to be an explosion or combustion of some kind in the basement which sent the flames shooting up through the stairway leading to the alley. The flames also had seemed to jump up through into the upper floors. By the time the fire company arrived the flames, fanned by a stiff wind from the north and slightly to the west, had reached the Hummel studio on the second floor, and the whole rear end of the building was a mass of flames. The fire burned so fast that it was utterly impossible to enter any part of the store in an effort to save any of its contents. That the fire had been burning for some time before being discovered was given credence by the fact that about the time the alarm was turned in to central the little light on the switchboard indicating the Walton Banking company, came on, which showed that the telephone receiver had either fallen from its hook or that the wires had become shorted, probably from the heat. However, on the other hand, Special Policeman Hallock stated that it was just 20 minutes of four when he came out of the alley back of Walton's store on making his last round of the night and that there was no sign of a fire there at that time.

Upon arrival of the firemen they soon had five streams of water playing on the fire, but they failed to check the flames and all they could do was to hold the fire in check as much as possible. As the fire swept through the building, reaching barrels of oil, kerosene, etc., explosions followed each other in rapid succession, while the explosions of cartridges and shotgun shells kept up one continuous rattle. When the flames neared the front end of the building the large plate-glass windows cracked and fell out. This created a suction through the building that drove the flames with more fury and they shot out from under the awnings. It was at this state of the fire that the buildings across the street, including the American Legion building, housing the local American Legion post, and the C.I.P.S. company; the McDowell building in which are located the post-office,

The Blade office and H. B. Bedell's news-stand; the Walton building housing their furniture store, the Stein, Spiesberger, Ehrman manufacturing company, and several other business places were menaced. The heat was intense and the plate-glass windows in these buildings were cracked and in several instances fell out. The paint on the double doors leading up to the American Legion rooms and The Blade office was so badly scorched that it peeled off and the same thing happened to the front of the American Legion building. Across the street to the east the Bartlett building, occupied by Decker & Sons' drug store on the first floor and office rooms on the second floor, also suffered from the heat. The windows on the second floor cracked and fell out and in one or two instances the shades caught on fire.

Another small building just back of the Decker & Sons' drug store was also damaged by having the plate-glass window and the glass door cracked by the heat. The Nowlan Babcock building adjoining the Walton building on the west was slightly damaged and the plate-glass window slightly cracked. Furniture in the Walton furniture store that was sitting near the big glass windows was scorched. The east side office windows in the Keck building were broken.

It was just 4:54 when the big building gave way in the middle and fell with a crash, taking the second story brick front wall with it. Some fifteen or twenty minutes later the east wall fell in, and by six o'clock what was Fairbury's biggest enterprise and probably the biggest store in the state for a city of this size, was a mass of ruins.

With the falling of the walls it gave the firemen a better chance to get at the flames and they soon had them under control. While the firemen were battling against big odds they put up a hard fight and kept the fire from spreading. The Forrest fire department answered Fairbury's call for help and aided greatly in confining the fire to the one building. Pontiac was also called on, but stated that on account of the roads did not want to venture out with their big truck.

In the second story of the Walton building were the offices of Dr. D. Brewer, Dr. A. H. Thatcher, Attorney E. A. Agard, and Hummel Studio, the Edison Shop and a number of store rooms. In the basement on the corner was Jay Tyler's barber shop. Those occupying these rooms lost everything.

While the fire was at its height, large burning brands were carried by the heavy wind for blocks and many residences to the southeast were set on fire. The Gottlieb Steidinger house caught on fire two or three times; the roof of the cupola over the fire bell on the city hall caught on fire and among the other residences to catch on fire were those of Judge Carrithers, Tom Slocombe, Owen L. Veatch, Dr. Sargeant and M. G. Sterling. These were kept from getting a good start by the use of garden hose and bucket brigades. The new fireproof roof put on the Edison school a couple of years ago undoubtedly kept that building from burning. Burning embers fell on this almost flat roof like leaves falling from a tree, and were kept from falling off the roof by the outside walls being higher than the lower part of the roof. In spite of this it did not catch fire.

Burned Out Three Times

The fire of Wednesday morning marks the third time that this firm has been burned out. The business period of this firm dates back to 1868, when Wesley Walton, now deceased, started a grocery store here at the corner of First and Locust streets. Soon after he was joined by his brother, Wesley. They gradually increased their stock and their store soon became a general store. They burned out in 1884, at which time they moved to the corner of Third and Locust streets, where for the past 39 years Walton Bros. store has been located. Twenty-seven years ago, on April 14, 1896, their store was again ravished by fire, but again they rebuilt, the firm name being changed to Walton Bros. Co. some 25 years ago, at which time they took into the firm a number of their employees. They employed in their store an able corps of some twenty-five clerks.

The structure burned Wednesday had a frontage of 150 feet, was 130 feet deep and two stories high. In it was carried large stocks in the following lines; clothing, shoes, dry goods, millinery, ladies' ready-to-wear, groceries, hardware, wall paper, paints. In this building was also located the Walton Banking Co. Neither the safe nor the vault has as yet been opened, but there is no question but that their contents are secure. They were build on solid foundation and are standing alone in the midst of the ruins.

The building itself belonged to J. W. Walton, Sr., while the business belonged to Walton Bros. Co. The estimated losses as given to us were as follows:

Walton Bros. Co., stock, $160,000 to $175,000; insurance $130,000.

J. W. Walton, Sr., building and fixtures, including bank, $45,000 to $55,000. We were unable to learn the exact amount of insurance carried on the building, but it is far from being enough to meet the loss.

Dr. D. Brewer, $5,000; no insurance.

Dr. A. H. Thatcher, $3,500; no insurance.

Mrs. Raymond Shroyer (Edison Shop, and property of the late James Woods) $2,600; insurance $2,000.

Hummel Studio, $1,500; Insurance $400.

Attorney E. A. Agard, $1,200; only partly insured.

Jay Tyler, barber shop, $1,000; insurance $800.

Dr. R. B. Crawford, $350. Dr. Crawford has some of his supplies for his X-ray machine in the Hummel Studio, and because of the fact that they were not in his own office at the time they were destroyed, will be unable to collect insurance on them.

The loss to the other buildings in the vicinity of the Walton building in the way of broken plate-glass, etc., is not known, but it will run up into money.

As to whether the firm will rebuild or not, those interested are unable to state at present. J. W. Walton, Sr., is in California and his son J. W. Walton, Jr., has also been there, but started home Wednesday. He is expected home tomorrow. Upon his arrival a conference will be held to determine the future of Walton Bros. Co. We have learned later that Mr. Walton, Sr., has also started home and will probably arrive here Sunday.

The people of Fairbury and this section of Illinois are hoping that the firm will rebuild and continue in business. Their recent loss is not only a loss to Walton Bros. Co., but a genuine loss to Fairbury and vicinity.

Depot Badly Damaged by Fire

The people of this city had not commenced to get over their excitement by the Walton fire when the fire alarm was again sounded. This time it was the depot and the time was about 7 o'clock.

Evidently burning embers from the Walton building had lit in gutters along the south edge of the roof and the fire creeping in had set fire to the rafters. The roof was of slate and the fire being between it and the ceiling, was hard to get at. Holes were cut in the roof and the fire finally extinguished, but not until a portion of the roof had caved in, caused by the rafters burning away. The fire was confined mostly to the east half of the building.

A large quantity of water was used and the damage from this source was large. The depot had only recently been redecorated throughout. The loss is estimated at around $3,500 or $4,000.

Notes of the Fire.

"Bun" Spence had a hole burned in his coat and was not in the vicinity of the fire when it happened, either: in fact, he was some six blocks away. He was assisting in watching over some of the houses in the southeast part of town, when the first thing he knew his coat was on fire, caused by the flying embers from the Walton building. The fire was put out without calling the firemen away from where they were already busily engaged.

When the fire commenced, "Lit" Crowder commenced to look for safety. "Lit" occupies quarters in the basement of the G. Y. McDowell building. Getting his horse he hitched the animal up to his single buggy, loaded his trunk into the front seat beside him, put his trusty rifle in the back end and with his cat on his lap started off. When asked where he was going he said, "Boy, I'se goin' west."

This is the third time that Dr. D. Brewer has been burned out during his fifty years practice here—twice in the Walton building and once in a building that stood where the Masonic building now stands.

Mrs. Emma Zimmerman in speaking of Walton's first fire, which occurred in 1884, says she can well remember how she and her sister, Mrs. Blackburn, dipped water out of a little ditch close by and did their part in trying to stop the fire.

Mrs. Lura Westervelt didn't hear the fire bell, but for some reason or other happened to wake up and upon looking up saw the grass in their yard on fire, it having caught from the flying sparks. Naturally the discovery brought forth an investigation on her part.

Many people came to town Wednesday from Pontiac, Saunemin, Forrest, Chenoa and other town to see the damage done.

Explosions in the ruins occurred at various intervals throughout Wednesday and Wednesday night. These were probably caused by canned goods bursting.

Although the fire was under control by six o'clock a stream or two of water was kept playing on the smoldering ruins most all day.

A number of those who had business places in the Walton building are getting located. Dr. D. Brewer has Dr. Otis' old quarters over Wades drug store and Dr. Thatcher and Attorney Agard have offices in the rooms over the Fairbury Bank.

One old lady viewed the ruins Wednesday with tears in her eyes. She said that for forty-five years she had traded with Walton Bros., and that their loss seemed like one of her own. She said that she was afraid they wouldn't rebuild.

Although the fire was just across the alley from the telephone building and its heat could be felt by the girls working in the office, they did not leave their posts, even when urged to do so by people who were afraid the north wall of the burning building might fall against the telephone building. Several of the girls who were not supposed to be working at that time volunteered their services. The criticism that

was made that some of those who should have been called at the time of the fire were not called, is without foundation, according to the statement of the operators on duty.

The Walton Fire of 1896

On Tuesday, April 14, 1896, almost 27 years ago, Walton Bros. suffered a loss similar to the one of Wednesday. The Blade of Saturday, April 18, 1896, in speaking of it says in part:

"When Sidney Swarm went down into the basement of Walton Bros. store building at about one o'clock Tuesday afternoon there was the quiet of a not very brisk day in the big establishment and on the streets. Within a few minutes the cry of fire was heard and in five minutes more Walton's "Palace of Trade" with its rich and varied contents, was a mass of smoke and flame. The fire department was upon the scene immediately but the smoke was pouring from every door and window before the first stream of water was turned on. The lady clerks did not save their wraps. Only a few armfuls of goods were carried out.

Mr. Swarm was at work in the basement when the fire broke out, but just how it caught is not known. Burning oil or paint was thrown against him and his clothing caught on fire. He rushed upstairs and gave the alarm and again entered the basement with a lead of hose which was always kept on hand, but was driven out. W.K. Stafford, of the hardware department, also tried to take the hose and fight the fire, but was driven back.

The firemen succeeded in confining the fire to the limits named.

The Chenoa fire department got a call for help with only eight minutes to make the train in. They hustled like the live men they are and got their hose cart on the tender of the engine with themselves alongside. The railroad men caught the spirit and the train pulled into Fairbury ahead of time, making the twelve miles in that many minutes.

The estimated insurance loss for Walton Bros. is $75,000 on stock and $12,000 on building.

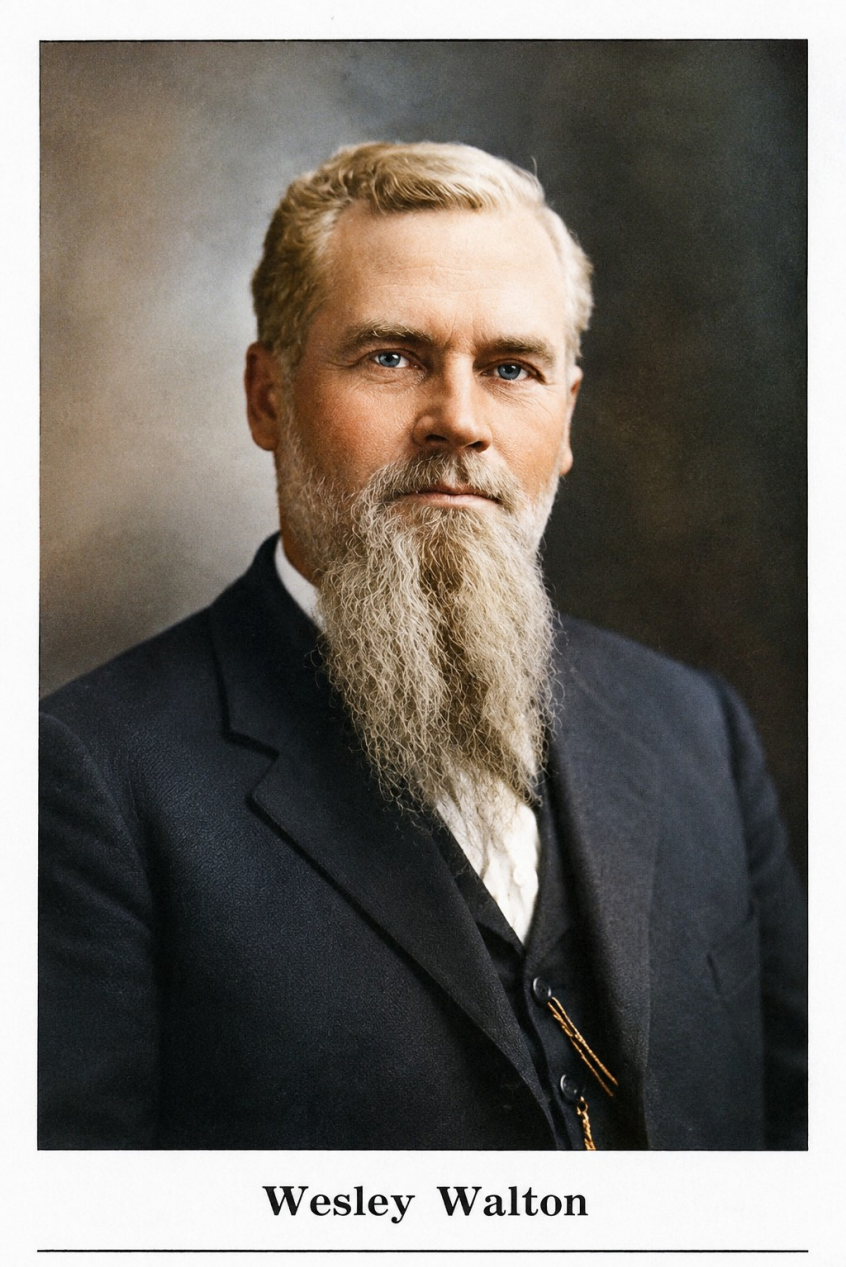
Carrithers & Agard, loss $1,500; insurance $400.

Dr. J. R. Rayburn, loss $1,500; insurance $400.

Jay Tyler, loss $750; insurance $500.

E. M. Phillips, loss $1,500; insurance $600.

The Bartlett building across the street east was also injured as also was the property of Parsons & Crum, Weaver Bros., A. H. Mundt and Local Record. The First National Bank building and that adjoining it on the west were also fully covered by insurance. Among those who lost heavily and were not insured were the following; Dr. Dan Brewer $2,000. Robinson & Farr $300. Phelps & Moberly $250. C. W. Keck $200. G. Y. McDowell's livery stock suffered little damage. Carrithers & Agard have set up their law office in the front rooms of the city hall, upstairs.



Wesley Walton

J. A. Patterson Has Some Remembrances of Fairbury

by James A. Patterson

Its dirt Main street was full of mudholes in winter and dusty in summer. In summer a street sprinkler, pulled by horses, made its way up and down the four business blocks. For this service of keeping the dust down the merchants paid a weekly fee. The knotty board walks in front of the stores were held up several feet off the ground by posts. This space under the walks made a catchall for old paper and other debris that collected on the street.

As a small boy I remember the street lights were of the kerosene-burning variety and were lighted at night by the lamplighter. He had earlier in the day made the rounds of each lamp, filling them with

kerosene from a small barrel that he pushed around on a wheel-barrow.

Our first electric street lamps were turned on January 7, 1891. They were Fairbury's first electric lights. The electric light plant was in reality not an electric light plant—it was an elevator, belonging to the Waltons and housed in the same building that now houses the Honegger Farm Service Feed Store, First and Locust streets. The steam boiler used to generate power of the elevator was also used to generate for the city lights. There was no day current. The plant was later moved to just west of where Frank Pratts poultry house now stands.

Taylor's Grove (just south of where the Fairbury hospital now is) is where the Fourth of July parade often ended and where the "Speaker of the day" orated for an hour or more— mostly about the Civil war. This part of the program was held in the morning, with sports events on Main street in the afternoon. Business men donated the money for the celebration. The saloons always donated the most toward the celebration for the reason that they always got the largest "take" from the big crowds.

Before the days of the automobile Fairbury had some six passenger trains each way each day. Among the users of the trains in those days were sales men. When a train would pull in at the depot the salesmen would get off the first thing they would do was to go to the baggage car to see that their large sample trunks were taken off the train. The trunks were loaded onto a hand-drawn baggage truck and then onto a horse-drawn dray that took them to the Thomas House, where the local merchants then called to look what they wanted. The Thomas House burned May 20, 1907.

Fairbury's two school buildings in the early days were designated as the "North" and "South" side schools. The south side school is now the Edison school. Where the Isaac Walton building now stands was formerly a four-room frame building, housing grades from one to four. Each of these four rooms was heated with a coal stove, with a good-sized coal box standing along side each stove. The high school was then in the Edison building. Later when what is now the Isaac Walton school was built the high school was transferred to that building. The present high school building was put in use May 5, 1915.

Fairbury has had two policemen killed while serving in that capacity. One was Fred Baird, who was shot and killed by Sam Rightsell on the night of February 11, 1899. This shooting took place on the basement landing in W. H. Bartlett's home, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Louis L. Puffer, corner Fifth and Walnut streets. It was a bitterly cold night. The other policeman killed was Amos Brown, who was murdered by Ray Scriven. Scriven was never captured. * * * There was another shooting incident preceeding the Baird killing that led up to it. Rightsell owed a party some money and the latter was unable to collect it and levied on a cow owned by Rightsell. A constable, Joe Galloway, served the papers on Rightsell and took the cow. This caused an altercation between Rightsell and Galloway that occurred not too far from the Bartlett home. A shot was fired by Rightsell and at least one shot by Galloway. It was later learned that Galloway's shot entered the fleshy part of Rightsell's hip. Following this shooting Rightsell ran into the kitchen of the Bartlett home and told the hired girl that someone was after him and then he ran into the basement. Later Policeman Baird was called to the Bartlett home. He was going down into the basement after Rightsell and had reached the basement landing when Rightsell fired. Baird was fatally wounded and died in the Bartlett home. Later Rightsell came up out of the basement and surrendered. At the trial, held at Pontiac and largely attended, Rightsell was found guilty and given a 20-year sentence. He never recovered from the bullet wound from Galloway's pistol and died in prison from its effect.

The killing of Officer Brown occurred on May 10, 1910, and took place just across the street west from

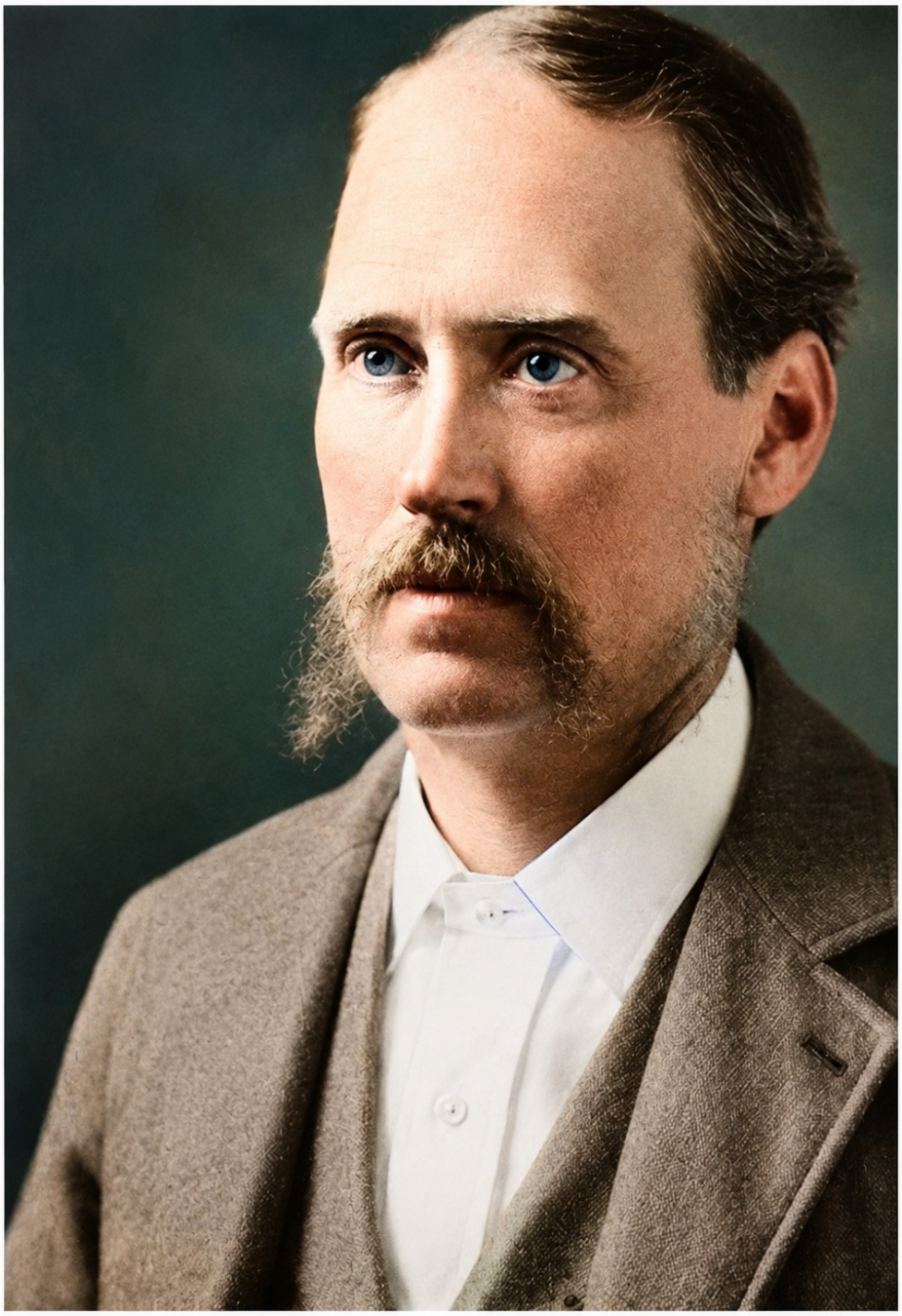
what is now Honegger's Farm Service Feed Store, First and Locust streets. It was evening of the first day that the saloons were open after being voted out a year or two previous. Ray Scriven had been drinking and Officer Brown had been called to the vicinity of First and Locust streets, where Scriven had been bothering a young woman by the name of Cora Smith. When the officer reached First street Scriven and Miss Smith were going south on that street and had reached a point between the railroad tracks and Locust street. Scriven waited there after being called to by the officer and Miss Smith proceeded on south. Officer Brown and Scriven had a few words when Scriven suddenly pulled a gun and shot the officer, he dying almost instantly. Wilson Kelso, who lived where Raymond Grover now lives, was standing on his porch and witnessed a part of the trouble leading up to the shooting. Although an extensive search was made for Scriven he was never found.

The location of the present Walton Department Store has been the scene of two disastrous fires that destroyed the buildings and stock each time. These fires occurred on April 14, 1896, and March 28, 1923, respectively. Walton Bros., Isaac and Wesley, had previously suffered a fire on October 11, 1884. At that time the store was located in the west end of the business block. Following that fire the store was moved to its present location.

August 15, 1900, Fairbury had its first rural free delivery, and on May 1, 1917, free city delivery was instituted. The present postmaster, Francis M. Masterson, was one of the three mail carriers. The others were E. P. Compton and Will Price, both deceased. * * * Dominy Memorial library opened to the public June 13, 1905. * * *

The city clock atop the city hall, started ticking off the minutes and hours on December 25, 1912.

Mausoleum in Graceland cemetery built in 1914. Body of John Zimmerman first to be entombed in it, December 1, 1914.



John Maple

TRANSACTION NOTE: I believe the Blade did not spell his last name correctly. It should have been John Mapel.

Number of 'Firsts' Listed In Development of Fairbury

Fairbury was laid out in 1857, by Caleb L. Patton and Octave Chanute. The former owned the land on which the village stands, and in return for the influence exercised by Chanute—who was one of the Civil Engineers of the Peoria & Oquawka Railroad Company—with the stockholders of the road, in getting a station at this point, he received from Patton one-half of the town lots. He it was that planned the town and named it, and superintended the laying out of it. Isaac R. Clark, County Surveyor at the time, surveyed it, and made the plot on file in the Recorder's office, and from which we find that the village of Fairbury originally embraced only the southeast quarter of Section 3, and a part of the northeast quarter of Section 10, in Township 26 north, Range 6 east, and is dated November 10, 1857. Several early additions made to it were as follows:

By Patton, Cropsey and Chanute, August 9, 1859; by H. L. Marsh, August 9, 1859, July 27, and December 17, 1868; by C. L. Patton, February 4, 1864, and July 9, 1869; by Atkins, May 8, 9, and 10, 1865; January 25, 1865, and April 30, 1868; by Isaac P. McDowell, July 12, 1865, and May 14, 1867, and by G. W. Suber, May 14, 1870. Recent additions made include: Lyle Huette on March 18, 1953, William Weber on Aug. 9, 1954, Ben and Lydia Nussbaum on April 20, 1955, Joseph Kuenzi and Aaron Steidinger on Nov. 16, 1955, N. J. Steidinger on Oct. 17, 1956, Joseph Kuenzi, ET. AL., on April 3, 1957, Homer Ford, ET. AL. on Oct. 20, 1956.

The first house in the village of Fairbury was built by John Coomer, who came here from Vermont, the old Green Mountain State, in 1857. Coomer finished his house and moved into it on the last day of the year. The first store house was built by A. L. Pogue. David Thomas and R. B. Amsbury, who opened a store in it in the early part of 1858, and for a number of years did an extensive business. At length Thomas sold out, and went to Missouri, but the remaining partners continued in the business some time longer, when they finally dissolved, Amsbury going to the gold regions. William Mitchell built a store about the same time of the one just mentioned, in which he opened a small stock of goods and groceries. The first brick store house was built by Franklin Elliott in 1864, and occupied as a store by his brother as soon as completed.

The first tavern in the village was built by Geo. W. Morris in 1858 and kept by him for some time, when it changed hands and S. S. Rogers became the proprietor. It was finally moved away from its original location, and became the Central House. The first post office was established in the early part of 1858, and H. H. McKee was the first Postmaster. The mail was then carried on horseback from Pontiac to Lexington, and a round trip made each week. The first blacksmith shop in Fairbury was kept by O. S. Mason and Michael Gately, two young men, who commenced the business about 1858, when the village was rushing ahead at a breakneck speed.

In 1859, a large flouring-mill was built in the village. It was built or commenced by parties for whom Judge McDowell endorsed, and upon their failure, he became the owner of the property, and completed the building. It was a frame edifice three stories high, thirty by fifty feet in size, with three run of buhrs, and cost upward of $8,000. The building burned in 1872.

Ben Walton built his first mill in Fairbury in 1866, at a cost of $25,000. It was a frame building thirty by sixty feet, with three run of buhrs, and was burned in August, 1868. He at once commenced to rebuild, and constructed a magnificent mill, which was forty-eight by sixty feet in size, four and a half stories high, and cost $35,000. It had six run of buhrs, and a capacity for making 175 barrels of flour per day. In connection with his mill was a grain elevator, with storage for 20,000 bushels, and cribbing room for 75,000 bushels. He handled annually over 300,000 bushels of grain, the most of which was

sold on the track to buyers who shipped principally to the East. When his mill was burned, in 1868, in twelve days after the fire he was buying grain in a temporary building, and by the next February, had bought and handled nearly 300,000 bushels.

Fairbury was at the start a fine grain center, and it was generally conceded to be one of the best grain markets in the county. The first elevator was built in the Fall and Winter of 1858, by Fitch & Van Eman, who were the first men to buy grain in Fairbury. They bought and piled it up in sacks by the railroad, until shipped. This one, as well as one built by Hogue and Bartlett, were burned.

As already stated, several additions were made to the village of Fairbury after the laying out of the original place. One of the largest of these was made by H. L. Marsh, who, it seems, was one of the wide-awake citizens of the town. He built a large and elegant hotel and depot in the west end of the village, which, at the time of its building (1866) cost $17,000. But this, too, "went up" in one of the destructive fires before alluded to. Although Fairbury was laid out about the time the railroad was completed through this section, and it grew rapidly, as new railroad villages generally do, yet it was not until 1864 that it was organized under village laws and charter. At an election held on the 8th day of August, 1864, after due notice had been given, we find, upon examination of the records, that John Coomer was chosen President, and C. C. Bartlett, Clerk. At this election, there were "eighty votes given in favor of incorporation and twenty-six votes against incorporation." Whereupon it was declared that the town of Fairbury was incorporated under act of the Legislature, by more than a two-thirds vote." The first Board of Trustees elected were H. L. Marsh, E. T. Joy, I. P. McDowell, J. H. Van Eman and Delos Wright. The Board organized by electing H. L. Marsh, President, and W. G. McDowell, Clerk. John Coomer was elected Police Magistrate, but refused to qualify, and R. W. McKee was elected in his place.

The first school taught in the village of Fairbury was by Alonzo Straight, in a little frame building on the south side of the T., P. & W. Railroad, but had originally been devoted to some other use. The first house built for school purposes was in 1860, and was situated on the north side of the railroad. It was a frame building, two stories high, and cost $2,500. The first teacher to occupy the new building was Smith Olney, who taught in it as soon as completed. The first "South Side School House," as it is called, was built in 1868. It was also a frame building, two stories, and cost $3,500. The present Isaac Walton School was constructed as a high school in 1895. The Edison school was built in 1880, the high school in 1914, the gymnasium in 1950 and the Lincoln school in 1957.

The Principal and corps of Teachers for the school year 1878 were as follows: Prof. C. H. Rew, Principal of High School Department; Miss M. M. Daly, Assistant in High School Department; Miss Ella B. Erwin, teacher of Second Grammar Department; Philip Hutchinson, Teacher of First Grammar Department; Miss Della Chesebrough, Teacher of Second Intermediate; Miss Cynthia E. Earnhart, Teacher of First Intermediate; Miss Laura Colvin, Teacher of Second Primary; Miss Anna E. McDowell, Teacher of South Primary; Mrs. S. M. Hempstead, Teacher of North Primary; Miss Mary Kilbury, Teacher of West Primary and Intermediate School. The attendance during the school year of 1890 averaged about 500 pupils for the two schools. Unit three formed in 1950, had nearly 1,000 students.

The first church societies organized in Fairbury were the Methodist and Presbyterian. The Methodist Church was organized in July, 1858, under the ministerial labors of Rev. J. W. Stubbles, with the following members: Francis J. Moore, Garrison Bowen, Rachel Bowen, — Busey, Nancy Busey, Dr. L. Beech, Edith Beech, John Kring, Rachel Kring, Catherine Kring and John Potter.

The first church building was erected in the Fall of 1858, and was a frame, 32x55 feet, dedicated in the latter part of the year, by Rev. J. W. Flowers, Presiding Elder. It was enlarged in 1866, under the pastorate of Rev. J. E. Rutledge. In the Spring of 1874, benevolent citizens headed a subscription for a new church edifice, to cost from ten to twelve thousand dollars. Dr. Beech subscribed $2,000; others put down their names for liberal amounts, and thus several thousand dollars were raised. Nothing was done, however, until the Summer of 1876, when the Trustees determined to put up a substantial brick, 45x75, one full story and a basement. The basement was finished in the Fall of 1876, and was dedicated by Rev. R. G. Pierce, R. B. Williams, Pastor. It was intended, in the following Fall, to have the audience room on the second floor completed, but, on the 2nd day of July, 1877, a fearful tornado passed over the village, and the church was laid in ruins. In the Fall of 1877, Rev. J. Wilkinson was appointed Pastor, and the society, though somewhat discouraged had determined to rebuild. Largely through the generosity of Ben Walton, an elegant brick church was erected on the foundation of the old one, and was dedicated January 20, 1878, by Rev. W. H. H. Adams, D. D., of Bloomington.

The Presbyterian society was organized July 25, 1858, with 10 original members. The first Pastor was Rev. Benjamin B. Drake. The first church was built in 1862, and was a frame, 25x40 feet, costing $750. It was dedicated, when completed, by Rev. A. Eddy. A Sunday school was organized in 1863, with William Mitchell as Superintendent.

A few years after the organization of the Presbyterian Church, it divided into the Old and New Schools, and the latter branch built a church similar to that worshiped in by the other; but, re-uniting again in a short time, the New School church was sold to the Apostolic Christians.

As early as 1862, movements were made here toward developing the coal fields, believed to exist sufficiently near the surface to be reached with light expense. In the Fall of 1878, H. L. Marsh commenced to sink the west shaft, and at the distance of 216 feet, struck the first vein of coal which varied from four and a half to five feet in thickness, and produced a very fair quality of coal. At a distance of 180 feet below this even another was found, but not of sufficient thickness to warrant its being profitably worked. It was the best coal, however, in any of the neighboring shafts, but, to quote the slang of the day, it was “too thin-” to be valuable. To sink this shaft and equip it for work, cost altogether about $30,000; the works had a capacity for taking out at least five hundred tons daily, but the demand never required it to run to the full extent of its ability. This was the first shaft sunk between Braidwood and Alton. It for some time proved an expensive affair on account of so much water, and the third shaft was sunk before one could be secured against overflow.

The east shaft was commenced in April, 1867, and struck a profitable vein of coal at a depth of one hundred and sixty feet. This shaft was originally begun by a stock company, consisting of Jones, Amsbury, Darnall, Gibb, Atkins and Archer. Amsbury and Jones were the principal business men, and Gibb the Superintendent. The sinking of the shaft at that time cost about $15,000.

The first bank was established in Fairbury by Judge McDowell and Nathan E. Lyman, in 1864, and was known as the Fairbury Bank. In 1867, John J. Taylor was admitted a partner, and it finally developed into the First National Bank, and was organized as such in 1874, with Isaac P. McDowell as President, and Nathan E. Lyman as Cashier. Bartlett, Beech & Dominy commenced the banking business June 15, 1874.

A woolen-mill was built here about the year 1867-68, by three brothers from New York, named Barnard. It was supposed at one time that sheep raising would prove a very profitable business in this section of the country, and a number of farmers embarked in it extensively. A man named Hiner, living

a little west of Fairbury, had at one time over 1,300 head of sheep, but after considerable experimenting, it was found to be a failure. Owing to the wet nature of so much of the land the disease called “foot rot” prevailed to an extent to render the raising of sheep not only expensive, but entirely profitless, and it was finally abandoned altogether. From this fact, the woolen-mill proved a failure, and the parties owning it took out the machinery and moved it to Los Angeles, Cal., where sheep are a spontaneous growth and are cultivated to an extent calculated to make a mill of its caliber profitable. The Chicago & Paducah Railroad Company purchased the old building, after the machinery had been removed, with the intention of converting it into a grain elevator.

The Fairbury Union Agricultural Board was incorporated under legislative act in 1876. The certificate of organization is signed by Geo. H. Harlow, Secretary of State, under the great seal, and is dated January 19, 1876. It was organized and officers duly elected March 25th, as follows: John Virgin, President; John G. Steers, Vice President; C. C. Bartlett, Treasurer, and Smith Olney, Secretary. The first Board of Directors were Jacob B. Baily, Stephen Herr, Henry Kingman, John F. Myers, Henry Skinner and George W. Myers, whose terms expire in 1877; and Robert Elmore, J. F. Earnhart, Owen Finegan, D. L. Murdock, R. E. Norman, D. R. Potter and Benjamin Cumpston, whose terms expire in 1878. Their grounds consist of about twenty-one acres of land, purchased at an aggregate cost of $2,800, and are located just south of the village and are excellently adapted to the purpose for which they are used. They are well improved and enclosed with a substantial fence and have large and commodious buildings.

The first exhibition of the association was held in September, 1876, and continued four days.

The Masonic and Odd Fellows societies are well represented in the village of Fairbury, by all the grades of those honorable bodies. Tarbolton Lodge, No. 351, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, was chartered October 3, 1860, and the document authorizing its existence as a body was signed by D. C. Cregier, Grand Master of Illinois at that time, and J. H. Miles, Grand Secretary. Aaron Weider was the first Worshipful Master. The Lodge Hall was burned March 29, 1875, and the loss in paraphernalia, furniture, etc., was about $2,000. The hall did not belong to them, but was rented for Lodge purposes, so that the loss of the building did not fall on them. The Lodge was originally organized in Remington’s parlor, and continued to meet there until other rooms were procured.

Fairbury Chapter, No. 99, Royal Arch Masons, was chartered October 5, 1866, and their charter signed by J. A. DeLancey, Grand High Priest of the State, and J. H. Miles, Grand Secretary. The first High Priest was J. W. Peck, and H. Remington was the first Secretary.

Fairbury Council, No. 36, Royal and Select Masters, was chartered January 11, 1868, and I. W. Peck was the first T.I.G.M., and M. Osman the first Recorder.

St. Paul Commandery, No. 36, Knight Templars, was chartered Oct. 26, 1870. Sir D. C. Cregier was then Grand Commander of the State, and as such signed the charter authorizing its organization. The first Eminent Commander was Sir J. J. Wright.

Livingston Lodge, No. 290, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized under dispensation August 15, 1860, and chartered Oct. 12th of the same year. The charter members were J. F. Blackburn, John J. Young, W. H. Strevelle, John T. Bowen and John Zimmerman.

Fairbury Encampment, No. 71, I.O.O.F., was chartered Oct. 8, 1867, and had a large membership.

The history of the press extends back 92 years in Fairbury. In 1866, H. S. Decker commenced the publication of a paper called the Journal, in Fairbury, but soon sold out to I. P. McDowell, who, after a short time, sold to a man named Eastman, and he continued to publish it until 1873. In 1871, the Dimmicks commenced the publication of the Independent, and in 1876 C. B. Holmes commenced the Blade. These papers were published in the interests of the east and west ends of the village for a time, when J. S. Scibird, formerly of Bloomington, purchased the two, and consolidated them upon the principle that "in union there is strength," and from the combination brought forth a kind of journalistic Siamese twins, known as the Independent-Blade. The "Independent" was soon dropped, and the paper continued on as the Blade.

John Virgin, J. C. Morrison and Decatur Veach formed a company about 1870 for the purpose of importing Norman Horses. Virgin was sent and brought the first lot across the Atlantic to this country. Their partnership was soon dissolved by the death of Veach, but Virgin continued in the business, and imported some very fine specimens of this popular breed.

The most extensive manufacturing of any kind in the village was George W. Kring's. He commenced, in 1866, the manufacture of cultivators, a business he is still engaged in. Lately, he had added the manufacture of check-rowers which he makes a specialty.

The village of Fairbury makes no pretensions to wholesale business or to extensive manufacturing, but is merely a retail place, and as such every line of business is well represented. Many large mercantile firms, whose bases no financial storms can shake, are doing a heavy but safe business.

The Toledo, Peoria and Eastern Railroad, formerly known as the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw and earlier as the Peoria & Oquawka Railroad, in the early period of its existence had a hard struggle for life. It was poor and moneyless, and, as is usually the case under such circumstances, every one gave it a kick down the hill. No stock was taken in it in this immediate vicinity, except a little toward building a station. Owing to their straitened circumstances, and their inability to pay their obligations, the bitterest enmity arose between the road and the town, and attachments were made against everything in the way of property belonging to the road, liable to such process, and even freight bills were garnished before they could be collected. Every occasion was sought to annoy each other, and they did not always stop at annoyance, but did considerable injury. A train passed through the town one very dry, windy day at full speed, with fires and steam at a high stage, and emitting from its smoke-stack great blazing cinders, which caught in some combustible matter, communicated to the town, and a destructive conflagration was the result. When the train arrived at Forrest, the engineer proudly stated that he had set the ---- town of Fairbury on fire as he came through.

The fire Dept. had its start in 1875, when it purchased a couple of hand engines, at a cost of about $1,800, and the village government allowed them $100 for keeping their fire tackle in good working order while the remainder of their services was gratuitous.

One of the most interesting and exciting little incidents that has ever occurred in this village, perhaps, was the first exercising of the rights of franchise by a member of the "Fifteenth Amendment." Richard Quarles, who was known nearly all over McLean and Livingston Counties as "Side Hill Kick," on account of one leg being several inches shorter than the other, was the first colored man to cast a ballot at an election in Fairbury. The occasion was the election of township officers, in the Spring of 1870, and called out nearly as many people to witness the performance, as would a circus. But no one challenged or contested his right to vote, and it passed off all in good humor.

Shakespeare club members shown in a masquerade a few years ago are, left to right, Mrs. Eunice Pratt, Mrs. Winnie Hoker, Mrs. Louise Tarpy, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Mona Baker, Mrs. Emma Mitten, Mrs. Ella Leonard, Mrs. Manie Kring, Mrs. Ida Foster, Mrs. Lucretia Steinberg and Mrs. Cecil Herzog.

1906 Story Recalls Life Of Early Fairbury Settlers

(Taken from issue of Jan. 5, 1906)

Last Sunday, Dec. 31, Mrs. Harriet Coomer celebrated the 48th anniversary of her arrival in Fairbury. On December 31, 1857, Mr. and Mrs. John Coomer and son Ibert, arrived in what is now Fairbury. It was then called South Avoca. Mr. Coomer had been here previous to that time and built a house, but it had not been weather boarded, nor plastered, neither had it any doors or windows. The family lived in the house for three weeks before the doors and windows arrived from Chicago, the openings being stopped up with boards and curtains. Mrs. Coomer, who is now 84 years old, will remember those early days. She says their first meal consisted of flour and sweetened water and the next dried apples. After that Mr. Coomer procured provender of the farmers living nearby.

The original house built by Mr. Coomer is still standing and occupies the lot just across the street east of the Thomas House, and this was the first house built in Fairbury. In this house without windows or doors the Coomer family lived for the first three weeks of January, 1858, and Mrs. Coomer, the only one of the first three of Fairbury's settlers living, says the weather was fine, being warm and pleasant with clear skies. Light frosts fell at night, but the family was comfortable. At the end of three weeks

their doors and windows came from Chicago and they were able to withstand the severe cold, which came the latter part of February, lasting well into March. Another house was in process of construction when the Coomer family arrived in Fairbury, and it is still standing and is the old part of what is now the Thomas House. This building was erected by a man named Wm. Mitchell, who used it as a grocery store and residence, moving into it early in January, 1858. The next building erected, Mrs. Coomer says was a store room for Bruce Amsbary. This building is also standing and is occupied by C. V. Beggs' east end livery. This building was built the spring following and there were also a number of other buildings put up that year.

Quite a number of families came here from Old Avoca that year, a depot was erected on the site of the present depot, the town was named and a post master appointed, Mrs. Coomer well remembers the meeting at which the town was named. It was voted unanimously by the then residents of the burg, with the exception of Mr. Coomer, to call the new town Coomer, but Mr. Coomer would not hear to it and after some debate Fairbury was selected as the name but she does not remember why this name was chosen. Henry McKee was chosen as the first post-master and the post office was in the Coomer residence. The mail was carried on horseback from Pontiac for some time, the carrier making Avoca, Fairbury, Potosi and then Lexington.

The land upon which Mr. Coomer erected his house was given him by Cropsey & Chanute, the men who laid out the town, with the understanding he was to build a house thereon.

Mrs. Coomer was born in the Green mountains of Vermont, but after she was married her health was so poor the doctor said that she would not live long if she stayed there and the family came west, locating first in Michigan, where they remained a year, when they came to Illinois, and it may be said, accidently to Fairbury. It speaks well for the climate of this locality to say that although in her 84th year, Mrs. Coomer is still in vigorous health and enjoys all her faculties of mind and body. She has a very retentive memory and remembers many of the incidents of the early days. She remembers when the first matches were made and the first sewing machines as well as many other important inventions now in common use. Mr. Coomer, during his life, amassed a comfortable fortune, and Mrs. Coomer, the now remaining first settler, is living a life of happiness and peace.

Apostolic Christian Church Stands At Original Site

Members of the Apostolic Christian church have been attending their services here at the same place for the past 84 years.

The present church building located on the southside of Walnut street between Fourth and Fifth streets has itself been in use for about the past 70 years, and the original building stood in the same place before that.

The first building owned by the Apostolic Christians in Fairbury was purchased in 1874 from the Presbyterian church. The price was $1,100. The structure was deeded by the Presbyterians to six

members of the Apostolic Christian church, who were Gilgiam Stoller, Nicholas Keller, Gottfried Eggle, Jacob Von Tobel, and Anna and Jacob Keller.

PREVIOUS TO securing the building, members of the faith had worshiped in country churches, one of which was located two miles east and four miles south of Fairbury, and the other which was northeast of town a number of miles. Both churches have long since been torn down, but the cemetery located a bit east of the church which was located south of Fairbury is still in use today.

Original members of the church came to this country mostly from Switzerland and Germany, and drawn to Fairbury, as they were to other communities, by the ties of their religion.

Many arrived in Fairbury with little more in their possession than hope—and their faith. In that time there was no hotel in the town, and those arriving were quickly faced with the problem of finding a place to eat and sleep. Their problem, however, was usually quickly solved by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Von Tobel, who lived on the corner of Third and Elm street where the Edward Bach residence now stands.

THE VON TOBELS offered food and shelter to those in need, keeping entire families for as long as three, four, and more days until relatives and friends arrived to help get the newcomers settled in the outlying areas.

Mrs. J. N. Bach, Sr., daughter of the Von Tobels, recalls to this day how the transients would sleep in rows—the men in one row and the women in another—on the floor of the Von Tobel home.

“I still don’t know how they fed all those people”, Mrs. Bach says, “because my parents didn’t have much even for themselves at that time.”

The congregation continued to grow until 1932, when the church divided into two congregations. One group retained the Apostolic Christian name, and the church building, while the other named the Christian Apostolic church, and in 1934 constructed a new building, which stands today, at the corner of Elm and Eighth streets.

Town Clock
One of Few
In Country

(Taken from issue Dec. 9, 1954)

Probably just about everyone in Fairbury looks at the town clock perched atop the city hall at least once a week, but few realize that the timepiece is numbered among a diminishing class of such instruments.

Wallace JaKa, owner of the Tower Clock Co., of Ottawa, himself a man with an extremely interesting background, had a number of interesting things to say about tower clocks in general, and the Fairbury clock in particular the past week.

Mr. JaKa and his son, Ralph, were here to recondition the working parts of the town clock, and refurbish the dial. His company is, believe it or not, the only one in the world which at the present time stocks parts for tower clocks, and he and his son the only persons in the world who make a full time job of servicing such clocks. And no one has a better right.

Mr. JaKa is the sixth generation, and his son the seventh, of a family which have had as their life work the building and repairing of tower clocks. Mr. JaKa himself bought out the tower clock branches of Seth-Thomas and Howard and now has the field to himself.

The Fairbury clock was made by Mr. JaKa's grandfather, and installed by his father in 1912, Dec. 20 of that year being the first day that the local clock tolled out the hours. Mr. JaKa was here in 1927 to work on the clock, his last visit until this week.

"We gave it a complete overhaul this time," Mr. JaKa remarked. "Transmission gears, winding mechanism, bearing, a couple of new hands and paint on the dial all needed replacing, and it was in a general state of disrepair."

But Mr. JaKa smiled broadly as he added, "You've got a real clock there now. We have it operating on a one-fifth second-per-day tolerance. It won't gain or lose much more than a minute in an entire year."

We asked Mr. JaKa about a recent story we had read concerning a clock in England that killed its caretaker by pulling him into its winding mechanism. "Oh. yes," he replied, "that's one of our clocks which we service, and believe me, I made that incident a good object lesson to my son. What the fellow did was go up into the clock with-out turning off the electric winding mechanism. It clicked on when he was up there, and when his shirt happened to catch on the cable, it wound him right into it. He should have turned off the winding wheel before he went up there."

This writer had no idea of the number of tower clocks in the world, but he was still surprised when figures given by Mr. JaKa showed Fairbury clock to be one of a comparatively few tower clocks still operating. It seems that Isaac Walton's gift to the Fairbury Community is one of only 7,782 tower clocks in the world, 5,500 of which are in the United States. Besides Fairbury, there are only 40 other tower clocks in the state of Illinois.

For those who like statistics, those figures mean that in the U. S. there is but one tower clock in every 540 square miles. There are three other tower clocks near Fairbury — in Pontiac, Bloomington and Eureka — so it would seem that this area has more than its share.

The oldest such clock in the U. S. is situated, as one might expect, in St. Augustine, Fla., the oldest city in the U. S., founded in 1565. The clock, which made its appearance in a Catholic church there soon after, is still in working order.

"These Clocks", says Mr. JaKa "Will run forever with proper care. It's the tower they are in which cause the trouble. The masonry weakens, and some day the clock falls right through the ceiling. Had that happen in a court house once. It missed the judges desk by a few feet, went on through another floor and almost hit a clerk's desk and landed in the basement."

The Fairbury clock wouldn't have too great a fall if something like that happened here, but we hope it never does. Fairbury just wouldn't be Fairbury without its town clock.

Markers Erected
In City Park

Taken from issue of December 1, 1899

"Keep off the Grass;" "Don't throw stones at the squirrels," "Animal building to the East," "Balloon ascension daily at 3:31," "Don't hitch to the trees," and "Men wanted to run lawn mowers C.S.B," were the markers that greeted the citizens when they came down town Monday morning. They were stuck in the dirt that had been dumped in VonTobels's lumber yard, and caused many a face to broaden into a smile. The work of removing the lumber and sheds. The park committee will push the improvements as rapidly as possible as soon as the weather will permit.

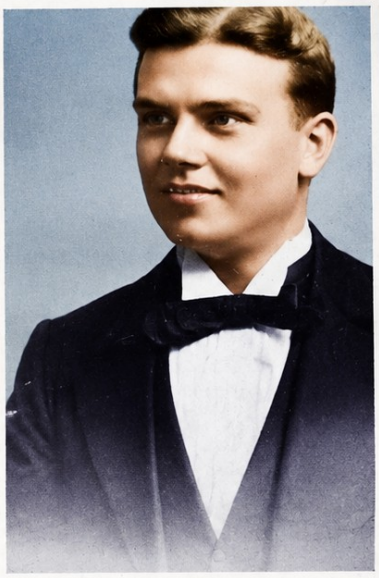
Early History
Of St. Pauls
Commandery

(Taken from issue April 1, 1908)

The Grand Commander of Illinois has been engaged for some time in compiling a history of Knights Templarism of Illinois, which will contain a complete and authentic history of every commandery in the state from the time it was organized to the present, together with photo engravings of all the past eminent commanders so far as obtainable. St. Paul Commandery was organized in 1870, being one of the oldest commanderies in the state. Recorder John Zimmerman has been gathering the photographs of the past commanders, and it has been a good sized task, as there have been 28 eminent commanders of St. Paul Commandery. Eight of these are dead and 20 living. Mr. Zimmerman succeeded in securing the photographs of 24 of them and they make an interesting exhibit. Following is a complete list of commanders who have presided over St. Paul Commandery:

	Died
*John J. Wright, 1870	1872
*Benjamin E. Robinson	1902
1878-82	
*Nathaniel T.P. Robertson	1893
1872	
*Horace M. Gillette, 1873-4	1889
Emory Gregg, 1875-6-1905	
John Zimmerman, 1877-8-80	
Wm. H. Allen, 1879	
Daniel Brewer, 1881-2-5	
*Jairus T. Bullard, 1883	1899
*Charles Palmer, 1884	
Josiah M. Belke, 1886-7	
Henry Remington, 1888-9	1896
Charles F. H. Carrithers,	1870-1
J. Edward Bangs, 1883	
Fred Duckett, 1884	
Clarence R. Virgin, 1895	
John H. Conerus, 1896	
*Theodore T. Babcock, 1897	1903
Henry S. Eckhart, 1898	
Newton E. Fulton, 1899	
George A. Sutton, 1900	
Marcus M. Lord, 1901(Short term)	
*Jonathan J. Pence, 1902	1907
George D. Mnotellius, 1903	
Fred E. Thomas, 1904	
Thomas S. O. McDowell, 1905	
Fred Wright, 1906	
William H. Bartlett, 1907	

Leroy Kirby, shown with his collection of spice boxes, the manufacture of which dates back to 1858. Originally in the possession of the Cumpston family, the set was handed down to Mr. Kirby's Mother, Clarinda Cumpston Kirby, when she began housekeeping in 1866. They were thought to have been originally purchases at the general store set up at Avoca about 1850.



Charles Purdum

Mrs. Kirby inspects two wool bed spreads, the thread for which was spun by Martha and Esther Ingrahm in their home near Carmichael, Penn., about 1840. The actual coloring and weaving was done in a small shop in the same town.

The two spreads came to Illinois in 1854 with the John Cumpston family.

The women who spun the thread were the first and second wives of John Cumpston. To Martha, three sons were born, Thomas, Benjamin and John Jr. To Esther was born three daughters, Ruth, Cassandra and Clarinda. Of the boys, Benjamin is well remembered by many in Fairbury, residing for many years on the farm now owned by Herman Kilgus.

Ruth died at age 18. The only cemetery then in existance was the Cooper cemetery, and so wild was the country at that time that Ruth, when she learned she could not live, asked to be buried on the farm. This was done, and her grave fenced in by rails. The following year. the rails were stolen for firewood, and in the spring, high water from flooded Indian Creek removed all traces of the exact spot of the grave. To this day, the grave has never been located. Ruth's name appears on the family tombstone in Graceland cemetery.

7.3 Inch Rainfall In 4 Hours Brought About Flood In 1951

(This story won first place in the Illinois Press Association Contest among Illinois newspapers)

The severe wind and rain storm which lashed Fairbury and the general vicinity for miles around Sunday night was described by long-term local residents as the worst of its kind that they could remember. The ensuing floods were said to be the highest here since 1869.

Crop damage for the entire general area was being estimated at 2 million dollars, not to speak of property damage.

Sheets of rain fell in cloudburst proportions and winds reached hurricane-like force during the major part of the storm which lasted some four hours — roughly between 8 p.m. and midnight. The government rain gauge at the waterworks at the south edge of town recorded a deluge of 7.3 inches.

Federal conservation men said that according to government records for this area 4 inches of rain in 4 hours will be the maximum rainfall to be expected here in a 50-year period and that once in 100 years 4 and one-half inches would be the maximum rainfall to fall in 4 hours. It appears that nature has no respect for estimates, since the rainfall exceeded anything that government conservationists expected to happen in any 100 year period.

Resembles Jungle

Wind velocity was not recorded here, but rain was driven at the height of the storm at about a 10-degree angle with the ground. Trees and large branches of trees were blown down throughout the city in great quantity, the walks and streets of the town resembling a jungle to residents as they awoke on Monday morning. No street in the entire city escaped the falling branches. Many of the streets were blocked. While driving through the streets it seemed that one was going through a path in a forest.

The high winds also knocked down three large billboards just east of town, blew over a light pole at the softball diamond, blew out window panes from some farm buildings and at least at one store building, tore away a part of the roof on the new high school gymnasium, and toppled chimneys on at least four buildings. To top it off, the gale started in motion two empty freight cars standing on a siding at the Honegger mill, blowing them a distance of some 400 feet and with such force that when the first car struck other cars on a joining track, it was derailed. Severest damage was done in the northeast section of town, where larger trees were actually uprooted in several cases.

Highest in 82 Years

The Blade could find no one who could remember when water reached an overall higher level since 1869. However, David Munz said that in 1927 11 inches of water flowed over the west end of the cement bridge east of town. Straight north from town, roads were impassable to automobiles at a distance of two miles from the Vermilion river. Not all of the intervening land was under water, but within a half-mile of the river, practically all fields were inundated, the tops of two to three foot high corn stalks barely showing above the water in some fields, and completely covered in others.

Northeast of the city water was reported level with the floor boards of the Fugate bridge. Jim Mowery, who has lived near the bridge for over 60 years, said the water was six inches higher than he had ever seen it before. The river at this point was a mile and a quarter wide.

The water in that section also reached to within four inches of the floor in the new farm home of the Roy Goulds'. Pigs were chased into the front yard in order to save them from drowning. At dawn Monday morning Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dart were rescued from their farm home which had become completely surrounded by water. Royce and Harry Carter and Kenny Brandt drove a motor boat through a corn field to carry out the rescue. They crossed fences without having to lift the motor.

Wing's oldest resident reported a water level on Route 47 just west of that village, higher than he, or his father, had ever witnessed.

The golf course, for years a measure for water levels, was completely covered with the exception of the club house and Nos. one, two and six greens. The water approached the club house to within a distance of 20 or 30 feet.

Water was left standing in a dozen different streets, in several cases reaching into yards to lap at the steps of homes. Water still reached to the top of the curbstone at Second and Oak streets late Monday evening, 24 hours after the first rain. Hickory and Walnut streets also had water standing for many hours. Water also went over the First street extension leading north from town, reaching the porches of a number of homes along the road.

Not a Dry Basement

There was not a dry basement in town, or if there was, The Blade did not hear of it. The comment was passed at least on four occasions that "this is the first time we've had water in our basement." Depths varied from a few inches to five feet in basements Monday morning, many retaining as much as three feet as late as Monday night. Plumbers said Tuesday that it would take two more days to pump out all the basements.

Honeggers' & Co. estimated a huge loss in damaged motors when the basement of their mill filled to within a foot and a half of the ground floor. The basement was said to have filled quickly after a portion of the T., P. & W. track ballast, acting as a dike, was washed from under the tracks, releasing a large amount of water built up on the other side.

Roads Blocked.

Outside of Fairbury, the situation was as bad, if not in some cases, worse. Route 24 between Fairbury and Forrest was closed to auto traffic from about ten o'clock Sunday night to 11 o'clock Monday morning. Water flowed over the pavement in a stream just east of the bridge a quarter-mile east of town. Water was over the pavement at the bridge just east of the curve between the two towns, at a depth at one time of between 2 and 3 feet.

The bridge at Forrest was completely under water, abutments and all. One section of the bridge was completely washed away, and two others partly taken by the rushing current. The water at this point reached a depth of at least eight feet above the stream's normal surface.

Trailer Camp Flooded

Directly adjacent to the stream was the trailer camp set up for the trailer homes of the men working on the pipeline.

Most of the workers and their families apparently were asleep during the first part of the storm, or thought little about the possibilities of it reaching cloudburst proportions. Here is the story one lady told about the discovery of the rising water:

"It was about 10:30 and I had told my husband to get up and open some windows in the rear of our trailer. When he opened the door he stepped out into water about two feet deep. The first thing he did was to see about our toy terrier puppy that we had tied to a leash under the trailer. He was drowned.

I then told my husband that he had better get the car out, at least, and this he did. I tried to get things gathered up in the trailer to take out with me, but when my husband came back to us, I settled for taking only money that we kept in the trailer. We splashed through hip-high water to higher ground. My husband had come away without his shoes, and I had to borrow a jacket." End of quote.

The water continued to rise, and at its highest point, reached early Monday morning, the water level came to within 1 and one-half feet of the tops of the trailers. Of about 15 trailers parked in the area, five were pulled to safety. Others were removed on Tuesday morning.

Train Wrecked

On the other side of Fairbury, west on Route 24, water covered the road in five places, all to recede about daybreak Monday. Many Fairburians were stranded in Chenoa and Pontiac, the blacktop from Weston also being impassable, Route 66 was also closed between Pontiac and Chenoa until Monday afternoon. Traffic was re-routed down Route 47, causing a steady stream of traffic into Forrest from the north.

Farther east, between Piper City and Chatsworth, flood waters weakened a railroad bridge, causing the derailment of seven freight cars of a T., P. & W. train.

Storm Approaches

The storm followed a hot, humid day, with temperatures in the high 80's and the high humidity causing it to feel more as if it were in the high 90's.

The first clouds appeared in the west, a plain mass of dark blue. Soon after dark, low-hanging clouds formed in the northwest, and the atmosphere took on a rather peculiar color, greenish in tint. At about 7:45 it was black as night outside, a time when an hour of good daylight usually remains.

At 7:50, according to the government rain gauge, it began to rain. The rain was accompanied by much lightning and thunder, but no heavy winds. By 9 o'clock it had rained exactly one inch. Between 9 and 10 it poured down 2.4 inches. It was a little after 9:30 that the first heavy wind began, and at 9:45 the electrical power went off. The wind and rain subsided about 10 o'clock, but started again abruptly at 10:20. In the next 40 minutes it rained an additional 1.8 inches, and the wind reached its greatest velocity.

From 11 p.m. to shortly after 2 a.m. the rain continued, without the heavy wind, depositing an additional 2.1 inches of water.

It was during the worst part of the storm, between 10:30 and 11, that an airplane circled very low over Fairbury, the pilot no doubt attempting to get his bearings from landmarks such as the highway.

"Chub" Mehrkens heard the plane, telephoned Chanute Field and asked them to try to get in touch with the plane. The Air Base did and the plane landed there safely.

The storm extended into Indiana, where it took the form of a tornado at Kokomo.

Crop Damage Heavy

It is thought the crop damage in Livingston county will run between two million and two and a half million dollars.

In the area hit worst by the storm the soybean crops will be an almost complete loss. Along the river bottom lands the loss is complete. Some corn may survive.

If the county's crops remain under water for three days, all corn will be lost, Paul Wilson, county farm adviser, said.

"Top soil being washed from the high ground into the Illinois river will cause land values to depreciate. Phosphate, limestone, and potash alone washed off the ground would assume startling damage figures," W. D. Spence, county chairman of the Production and Marketing Administration, reported.

The Flood of 1869

Many papers in this area have compared the flood with that of 1869, the greatest flood in recorded history, and this one is the greatest since that time.

There probably is no living person who can recall the flood of 1869, but the late A. G. Phelps, born in 1852 on a farm south of town, recalled it clearly and often told his children about it. It was a rainy year, with water courses already swollen, and on the 9th of June a nine-inch rain fell for hours in cloudburst volume, raising the creek, which borders the farm on the north, six feet, filling lowlands for miles, with fearful damage to crops, livestock, and property. "Everything that would float, from the head of the creek was lodged in Spence's timber," said Mr. Phelps; and the boys of that period had a great time the following few days climbing around the debris of wagons, buggies, and farm property of all kinds caught in the timber.

Years later when Mr. Phelps used to take his children out to the farm in the buggy, he sometimes stopped at the entrance, pointed to a notch cut in the gate post, and said, "Boys, there is the high water mark of 1869."

Thirty-Three Year Old Story Sketches First Fair

(Taken from issue of Aug. 18, 1955)
by N. E. Fulton

When one's thoughts are turned backward over a period of 50 years or more, long forgotten pictures appear on memory's screen of life. Dim and indistinct in the earlier periods, but as the focus shortens by years of childhood to youth the pictures become sharp and defined. Faces, incidents and scenes go through the mind, not always in regular sequence; years of the past will hop over years of the future, and make a jumble of dates of events to be straightened out by a mind more methodical and less liable to err. The chief aim of this story is to give the present generation an idea of the early days of Fairbury and a sketchy history of the Fairbury Fair. If there are mixed dates or omissions we will here and now plead ignorance for the first and your pardon for the second. In taking a moving picture one camera man will take the picture from one angle and the other from another angle and when the two reels are developed the pictures, while containing the same characteristics and scenery, will look altogether different. There were, perhaps, two or three hundred youthful minds making reels of pictures of Fairbury at the same time the reel about to be shown was taken and probably no two of them are the same. Therefore, please temper your judgement with mercy when you pick out the flaws.

If you can, just imagine a town which was being built upon a very swampy piece of land. The more you can imagine the swamp the more natural the picture of early Fairbury. There were board walks all over town where there were any houses and most of the walks in the center of the city were up on stilts from three to four feet. There was no drainage except two open ditches, one along Ash street. When it rained

hard the sidewalks floated until the flood subsided, then they were re-anchored. The "kids" had great times those days boat riding.

To give a correct idea of general conditions at the opening of the fair, it is well to tell of a few conveniences the people did not have for the reason they were not in existence. There were no wires in the town as telephones and electric lights were undreamed of. The only flying machine known to the children of that period was that of Darius Green and that was not much of a success. There were few cellars and those that were under houses had a habit of filling up with water to the floor of the house three of four times a year. The first heating plants were out after they had stoves which were moved out in the spring and put back in the fall. The men and boys all wore boots, some kid and some cowhide. The women wore hustles and dresses with trails. Their hair was their crowning glory. The girls all wore "pig-tails," some one and two braids hanging down their back. Their dresses came down to their instep. There were no bobbed-hair girls and if they rolled their stockings no one knew it. There were no Valentinos among the boys and balloon pants would have brought onto the wearer something more than a laugh. Red topped boots with copper toes were the mode among the boys and they wore their hair standing most of the time. There were no automobiles but they would have been of little use, as they could never have pulled it through the deep mud, and when it wasn't muddy the dust was a foot deep on all roads.

Reel I. Date, the Day Before the First Fair.

Scene 1. The Village of Fairbury.
The picture starts at the east end and runs through Main street to the west end. A flicker on the screen a corner of the east elevator shows that across the railroad track are two frame square front store buildings, the one on the south is T. F. Kiff's furniture emporium, with Mr. Gorback in the door way, the top of the old woolen mill with its brick stack is seen beyond the stores. The scene shifts to Main street, showing first the Amsbary & Jones elevator and across the street north their office and their grocery store just east, then Jake Thornton's small confectionery. In front of the Amsbary & Jones office is sitting a rolly polly man with a mustache and goatee. It is the noted Bruce Amsbary. He is in animated conversation with several men. It is hard to distinguish who they are at this distance. Oh, yes, one is Sol Baker, another Bill Sype, one is George Scriven and another is Dave Wright. Inside the office can be seen Ed Anable working on the books. In front of the grocery store is Jesse Hanna and Young Tommy Jones jumping with weights and Jake Thornton is marking the distance. George and Cap Franzen, Dutchy Rettenmeyer and Jim Baker watch the contest. The picture turns west. Across the street is the Fairbury hall with two story buildings below. It looked just the same as it does now. The first building is occupied by Henry Kingman with his hardware store and other store by Bryant & Elliotts dry goods store. The next store we can see is Pindar Bros., general store; then J. W. Beers' grocery, Si Talkners' harness shop. Ah, there is a familiar face. It is A. B. Claudon standing in the door of his shop. The same mustache and the same square-toed boots. The man with the whiskers standing next door is Tom Scouler, and there is Johnny De Wolf going into his drug store, and Nixon Bros. in the same building. Just notice the Main road, children. It is pure Illinois soil mixed with here and there a few rock. When it rains a half inch it makes about three inches of sloppy mud the entire length of the street. The sidewalks are plank and set upon posts three or four feet above the road. The plank would wear down, leaving the nails and knots sticking up from an inch to two inches to stub your toes upon.

We move to the next block west. There in the window of the corner building is another familiar face. It is Gus Mundt. He doesn't wear a mustache now but his old friends would recognize him. Just starting up the stairway is Smith Olney with Squire Shepherd. The next place is Frank Franzen's and the next Peter and Louie's. Then there's Joe Rettenmeyer's. The next building is occupied by J. F. Bloakbury &

Co., the "Co." being John Zimmerman. If you look closely you will see a youth with long hair and short pants, sweeping out the store. That would be Phil Wade. The picture moves on down the line west, showing the Odd Fellows hall, the Masonic hall, Joy's furniture store, Patrick Moran's place, O'Malley Bros. place, Stillwell's shoe store, the T. A. Beach building with Squire Hanna, as occupant, the Bartlett, Beach & Dominy bank then the Post office on the corner with Hiel Ramsey in the front part with a new stand. Oh, yes, D. L. Murdock has his law office in the Beach building.

The picture moves to the next block west. All frame buildings. A. H. Remington's grocery store on the corner, and there is Moyne Baily, clerk, and Merritt Van Over, delivery boy. Then comes Miss "Tat" Sackett's millinery store, James Wade's livery stable, A. W. Streeper's shoe shop, Squire Ross's office, the Central House located about there the Babcock and Keck buildings stand, and farther down on the corner is Earnheart and Baker's implement store.

All are frame buildings in the next block except one, and several vacant lots. The first building is occupied by Tresize, the photographer; Mrs. Zane's millinery store; Dave Wright's meat shop; Mrs. Decker's millinery store; brick building occupied by Stonehawker and Weaver; then Walton's store on the corner facing west on the square. Across the street south from this is Ben Walton's flour mill. North of Walton's store are two frame buildings, one occupied by Dr. Kimball with a drug store. On the north side facing the square are a number of imposing two-story brick buildings. The one on the east is O. P. McDowell's hardware store occupying the lower floor. The next building is the First National Bank of I. P. McDowell with Taylor & Weaver's loan office upstairs. The next building was occupied by Westervelt & Gravina with a grocery store, then H. L. Bruce's furniture store. There is a high board sidewalk going west to another brick block and the west building of the block is occupied by W. H. Taylor's dry goods store.

On the south side of the square is the Arcade Block. On the east corner is Jack Jamison's meat market; the next place is Powley's tin shop; the building from which the post office has just been moved; the next Katz's clothing store; Joe Yoe's place is the next; Joe Ross's drug store. J. A. Sheaff occupies the next two buildings with his gun shop and marble works; Billy Porter's harness shop and John Mapel is working for him; then comes the office of J. L. Marsh & Son and in the last building on the west is Bowen's grocery store. Hacket's blacksmith shop and McDonald's wagon shop were across the railroad tracks north of Jamison's market.

At last September 12th, 1876, dawns. This is the day of all days in the history of Fairbury, for this is the first day of the first Fairbury fair. For weeks John Virgin has been hustling to get things in readiness for today. Before the people begin to arrive let us step inside and see what has been done to the bare twenty acres of land.

Oh, my, just look at the buildings. See the floral hall! It is 20X30 feet and there are openings for twenty windows! There is the grandstand. It isn't completed yet, but when it is it will be fifty feet long, thirty feet wide and its roof will be thirty feet from the ground. This year we will have to sit in the sun to watch the runners. The race track is all smoothed off and the grass and weeds cut. Look at the nice little trees that Deacon Shepherd has set out. There are two rows of them on the north side of the grounds and a row along the track. My, they are nice and even! Just about five feet high and most of them soft maple. Some day they will make a nice shade. Look at the sheds and stalls along the fence for the cattle and horses! And there's a bandstand by the side of the amphitheatre. There is a roof to go under when it rains. They just thought of everything! And there is a well west of the floral hall. It has been dug and has a brand-new pump and boards around it over part of the clay.

We will now go inside and set the camera by the gate and try to get the pictures of as many of the people as we can. It is pretty early in the morning, only 9 o'clock, but here they come. Just look at the string of lumber wagons and spring wagons. Only a few of the town people have carriages. Here come Mr. and Mrs. John Virgin and their daughters. There is John F. Myers, the man who started the fair, and his family. Here come Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Bartlett and family and Mr. Bartlett is going to sell tickets. If there isn't Smith Olney! Doesn't he look natural? He has plenty of business to attend to, for he is secretary. There is John G. Steers and his whole family in a lumber wagon, and there is Dan Potter and his family in a lumber wagon. Here comes a man on a horse. No, two men on two horses. Well, I declare, the first one is Emory Gregg. Look at the big sash he is wearing! He is marshall of the fair. Doesn't he look fine with his red sash, big black mustache and his high boots? Right behind him is his assistant. Well, if it isn't Moyne Baily and he is going to announce the prize winner because he has a voice that can be heard out in Potosi Corners. Here are Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Cumpston and family. He has charge of the floral hall. Here comes some of the band. There is Alf Powley, Sam Greenebaum, Laft Kring, Alf Jones, Harry Armstrong, Zack Hanna, Cy Faulkner, John Seders, Sy Tarlton and Louis Bachtold. Here, walking on the new sidewalk are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Franzen and George and Casper. My, look at the stream of wagons now; they are lined up almost to Main Street. There is Bob Elmore and family from Forrest; Stephen Herr and wife of Chatsworth. There is Henry Skinner and family; there is Owen Finnegan and George Myers and their families. Here is a carriage! It is Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Murdock, all with their families. And there is J. W. Baily, M. H. Baily and his wife, Jesse Baily and Dick Baily. There is W. E. Norman and family. We can't any more than name them as they go by and may miss some of them even then. Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Beach and daughter in a carriage; and here come the doctors, Dr. N. T. P. Robinson and his family, Dr. S. P. Kimball, Dr. McConnel and wife and daughter, Dr. D. Brewer, Dr. Frank Brewer, Dr. J. B. Fulton and family. Just look at the whiskers on the medical fraternity. And there is Dr. Fraley and wife and son Al. There is A. F. Filley and family. Here comes James McDowell and family with Lee and John Will from the farm. There goes William Hackett and family. Here comes John L. Marsh and wife and Lizzie Noyes. There is H. L. Marsh and Carrie and John and Miss Knox. That is Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Fulton and son. There comes Wallace Amsbary and wife and all the children. Here are George Scriven and Ed Anable. Well, if there isn't Dave Rogers and Jim Hendricks and Jack Morrison; and who is that with them? Why that is Dr. Rayburn the new dentist. Aren't they the dudes of the town! And who is that little lame darky with a shoe shining box over his shoulder. Nobody but Dick, that everyone knows. Here come the Kirkwood and Hotchkiss families and James Gibb, who runs the east mine and his family and there are Mr. and Mrs. Tom Scouler and family. Here comes a line of wagons from the country: Mr. and Mrs. William Fugate and family, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McKee and family, Sam Mecord and family, Philip Goembel and family, Adam Kessler and family, Phil Fisher and family, Arlington Foster and family, Jap Morris and family, Bryan Judd and family, John McGreal and family, T. N. Smith and family, the Gilpin family, the Bradshaw family, William Wagoner and family.

Mr. and Mrs. James Harrington and children, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Harrington and children, Springer Dixon and family. Mr. and Mrs. George Worrick and family, the two Morton boys and the Misses Morton, William Morton and family, Mr. and Mrs. George Goshorn, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Morris and family, Mr. and Mrs. Orin Phelps and family. Mr. and Mrs. John Morris and family, Mr. and Mrs. Elhanan Morris, Decatur Veatch and family, John D. Vail and family, John Kring and family, Henry Kring and family, Richard Jessup and family, Elhanan Fitzgerald. "Red Horse" Robinson and wife, Duncan, Tom and Charles Ker, Nathan Darnall and family, Henry DeMoss, Ace DeMoss, Thomas and William DeMoss and their families from Avoca, Chris, Dennis and Matt Glinnen, "Governor" Loane and family. Martin Pearson and family, Eli Pearson and family, F. I. Johnson and family, James H. Carter and family, Samuel Dancey and family, Hugh Mack and family, Mr. and Mrs. James Kirby and family, Dan Potter and family, Wm. Goslin and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Cook and family, William

Smith and family, Robert Rumbold and J. T. Bullord and families. Chatsworth, Jacob Bechtold and family, D. S. Crum and Lawrence Keeley and family and John Donley and family, Alex and Malcolm McNabb and families, W. A. Dawson and family, C. D. Howarth and family, J. G. Howarth and family, E. Carter and family, J. T. Purdum and family, Wade Purdum and family, Ed. Purdum, J. M. Zook and family, Edward Skinner and family, Mr. and Mrs. Elisha B. Powell and son Herbert, Mr. and Mrs. Ezekiel D. Powell, J. F. Cooper and family, James King, Glenn Moore and family, John Moore and family, J. D. Travis, Hannah Spence, David Travis, the Hilsabeck families, Joe Adam with a box of honey.

Here come some of the town folk: Colonel Sheeley and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Walton and family, Peter McDonald, Jack Philips and family, Joseph Burger, Nate Burger and family, O. P. Ross and wife, Isaac Kerr and family, Mr. Rishforth and family, Isaiah Conn and wife, John Cooper and family, Henry Remington and wife, Horace Goembel and family, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Philips and Iver, Dave Patton, Marlon Patton and family, George Patton, A. F. Kilbury and family, Thomas Kelley and family, Jeremiah Sullivan and family, Patrick Sullivan and family, Tom Dailey and family, James Hagen and family, Mr. and Mrs. Haffey and family, I. Heckman and family, Patrick Moran and family, from the north side, Jas. O'Malley and family, Thos Moran and family, Josiah Yoe and family, John Harris and family, Captain Baird and family, William Nimmo and family, John and Louis Sorg, A. N. Zane and family, William and Orlando Smith, William Mahanna and family, Mr. and Mrs. Oxley and Harry and Sam, John Kelso and family, Wilson Delson and family, Zera Town and family, Warren Town and family, Edward Shaw and family, Fred Metz and wife and eighteen children all on a family ticket, Mike Menen and family, Bloom family, Joseph Brown and family, Joe and Fred Householder families, Jacob Bechtold and family, Jesse Raridon and family, Stewart Raridon and family, Alexander Martin, Dr. C. B. Ostrander and wife, Dr. Johnson and family, Wm. Seeders and family, Captain Morris and family, Mack Wright and family, S. D. Duell and family. George Lynn and family, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Lough, Jonas Lough and family. T. A. McKenzie and family, Robert Martin and family, Louis Cottingham, Anthony Bennett's family (he is tending gate) William Bricker and family, Uncle Tommy McDowell and family, Richard Fry and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Fry, Martin Darnall, Jeff Donoho and wife, Geo. Fry and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Barnes, Mr. and Mrs. John Zimmerman, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Blackburn, Mr. and Mrs. I. P. McDowell and family. Mr. and Mrs. O. P. McDowell and family, Judge McDowell and family, Mr. and Mrs. William Van Doorn, Will and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Emory Westervelt, Emory and George, O. J. Dimmick and family and L. W. Dimmick, Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Carter and family, T. F. Ramsey and family, H. J. Ramsey and Sam Ramsey.

Ben Hieronymus, Elias Virgin, James Boyd and John Woods, the Wallace families, Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Henderson, the Bryant family, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Walton, J. W. Walton, William Cumpston and family, Sol Baker and family, A. M. Burch and family, Wm. Van Wormer, Uncle John McDowell family, W. T. Stafford and family, Gilbert Evans and family, John Hutson and family, James Beadle and family, Joseph Shover and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ferris and Ada and O. V. W. T. Hemstead and family, W. T. Stackpole and family, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Worrick and family, John Skeins and family, Gus, Will and Nuce Bryant and family, Homer and Dell Weaver, C. B. Fleming, Mr. and Mrs. Cooley and family, Mr. and Mrs. John Wantland, and Henry Lower.

The people are about all inside the gates and we had better look inside. My, what a lot of old-timers, shaking hands and visiting and there is a sideshow; Joe Jones and Chauncey the Wild Man, who eats snakes; and look at the crowd of boys around him Otsie Baker, Butch Rettenmeyer, Henry Gillette, George Bennett, John Marsh, Buck Smith, Ben Hinshaw, Jack Hetherington, Ide Harris, Fred Baird, Toddy and Clatt Murdock, Frank and Os Beadle, Oliver, Tom and Will Fulton, Will and Heck Powler, Paul and Albert Abts, Tom and Will Hackett, Harry Bartlett, Jim Taylor, Frank Duell, Charley Morris,

Tom and little Fred Baker, Louis Sorg, Will and Tom Langabeer and little Cullie, Johnny Moran, Frank Moran, Jim, Joe, Jobe, and Dan McCurdy, Tom Moran, Boyd and John Woods, Johnny Maxwell, Filmore Kilbury, Ed, Frank, Bruce and Don Amsbary, and Joe and Charley McDowell, Elmer and John McDowell, Grant McDowell and lots of others. See the red topped, copper toed boots and some of them have on paper collars and a necktie. There goes George Orr the ventriloquest. There is another bunch of boys: Lon Jackson, Cap Franzen, Bob Shepherd, Alf Evans, Steve Karnes and Tommy, Fred Wright, Tom Baker, Harry Cook, Clair Straight and some freckled faced, tow headed boy and Fatty and Jerry Gaudineer, Charley Baker and Lou Ramsey.

There is Vet Harlow painting a sign for the Methodist ladies' eating place. Look at the old settlers getting their picture taken by DeLong.

There are a lot of boys looking at the saddle and driving horses. John Cook has a team of drivers. There are the Worrick boys and there are the Kelso boys. There is Osmer McDowell and John Will McDowell. There are the Veatch boy and the Vail boys and the Raridon boys and Ed. and Boyd DeMoss. There is Levi, Charley and Frank Odell, Will and Charley Robinson, the Hammington boys, the Keeley boys, Potter boys, George and Ben King.

What a good time everybody is having. The running races are fine. The fair officers are the busiest people on earth and the fair is a big success.

Oh, my look at the young ladies with their hair all done up and wearing long dresses! They are going into the floral hall. There is Edith Bartlett, Ella Beach, Alice Taylor, Emma Bartlett, Hattie Cooley, Emma Vincent, Lizzie Stillwell, Mabel Roberts, Anna Stackpoole, Acca Curl, Alta Straight. Ora Philips, Rose Cook, Lizzie Wade, Sarah Wade, Emma McDowell, Addie Bates.

There is the merry-to-round operated by an old horse, and see the young girls in their white starched dresses. There is Georgia and Alta Virgin, Olive and Ruth Filley, Belle Wade, Lutie McDowell, Eva McDowell, Jennie, Jessie and Lizzie Dominy, Minnie Shepherd and Carrie Marsh.

Pictures Not in the Movie.

The Livingston House was located in the block west of the Arcade Block on the south side of the railroad track. It was a frame building with really modern improvements. It occupied almost the full length of the block and was used as a depot as well as a hotel. It was built by John L. Marsh. Mr. Marsh also gave the "public square" where the waterworks now stands. It was a sway-backed building and contained the fire apparatus, such as it was. There was a good bell, a mighty good bell, which called the people out to the fires which were almost as the days of the week. The fire company had red helmets and trumpets and there was a lot of shouting and running around. Of course they always tried to pump the old hand pump for a few minutes and then the firemen would hold a public consultation and vote to run the old pump in the fire and burn it up, something they never did, however. You were always sure of seeing a complete fire every time the bell rang and it was worth while to get up and dress for they were most always good ones.

Jacob Von Tobel and Al Coomer ran the lumber yard in the city hall block, having purchased it of John Coomer.

The Presbyterian church, a low frame building, stood just where the church now stands.

Moin Baily announced the prize winners. How he does bring out the ILLINOIS—and the Pontiac visitors always call it Fairbury, “Illinoi” after the fair.

The land for the fair ground was purchased by Dr. J. B. Fulton for $35 per acre.

Judge Carrithers helped John Virgin lay out the race track. He was a school teacher in those days.

In 1957 the first nurses scholarship was awarded to Miss Betty Ellis of Chenoa. To be awarded each year the scholarship was set up to encourage girls in the area to enter the nursing profession.

Officers elected at the September meeting who will be installed at the annual meeting are: Mrs. Victor Armstrong, president; Mrs. Hazel Rathbun, 1st vice president; Mrs. Marcia Barber, 2nd vice president; Mrs. Norma Swearingen, secretary; Mrs. Clara Morris, assistant secretary; Mrs. William Morris, treasurer; Mrs. Ada Bennett corresponding secretary and Mrs. Roy Bachtold, historian.

One of three basketball teams to represent Fairbury in a sectional tournament were these 1943-44 Tartars, who upset a favored Trinity team 32-21 in the finals of the Chenoa regional. The Tartars then lost their first game of the Ottawa sectional 33-30.

First ten, dressed in black, were Alden Beckley, who was high scorer with 230 points, Dale Dameron, Bud Woodward, Bob Ziegenhorn, Bill Wilken, Frances Haase, Sam Runyon, Howard Bess, Ralph Knopp, and Bob Beckley. Same player, with exception of Woodward and Alden Beckley, returned following season to set school record of 26 wins.

Fairbury High School Cagers Went To State Tournament In 1921

Fairbury high school's greatest achievement in basketball came in 1921, and had its beginning with a smallpox epidemic.

It was 36 years ago that the Green and Gold made their first and only appearance in the state basketball tournament at Champaign, and exactly how much the outbreak of smallpox had to do with it, is, of course, open to speculation, but this much is fact:

THE SMALLPOX epidemic which broke out in Bloomington was cause for the first District tournament in history being held in Fairbury, and thus the local squad—which had not built up a particularly impressive record to that time—received all of the advantage which is supposed to come to a team playing on its own floor.

The term, district tournament, should not be confused with what it now designates. Nowadays, the district tournament is the smallest of the four tournament divisions of district, regional, sectional and super-sectional, which lead to the state finals.

In 1921, the district tournament was THE tournament. Twenty and more teams were entered in each district, and the winner went directly to the state finals.

THUS IT WAS that The Blade, of March 11, 1921, used a rare banner headline to announce that the district tourney would be held in Fairbury. It was comparable, today, with the holding of a sectional in this city, for the field of teams was composed of what now could constitute one district and two regionals, with the district winners cutting the state field to 20 teams.

Entered in the 1921 district along with Fairbury were Piper City, Forrest, Downs, Normal, University High of Bloomington, Bloomington, Paxton, Gibson City, Lexington, Saybrook, Roberts, Le Roy, Pontiac, Saunemin, Bellflower, Stanford, Colfax, Melvin and Atlanta.

Against this impressive lineup of teams, the host Fairbury squad pitted their season record of five wins and nine losses—and the ingredients were there for the upset which was to follow.

FAIRBURY'S FIRST GAME was against Colfax, which they won 22-17. This was the poorest game the locals played in the tourney, the newspaper reports said. In the remainder of the games, however, “they displayed real championship form in every department of the game, something they had not done during the season.”

In the second game, Atlanta, which had been a powerhouse in McLean county during the season, bowed to the Green and Gold, 13-10. The following afternoon the team hit its peak as they waltzed past Stanford, 22-11. Then came the championship game, and a 17-9 win over Saunemin.

Saunemin had advanced to the finals with a 72-12 win over Pontiac, a 16-13 win over U. High, and a 25-19 victory over Bloomington. They had beaten Fairbury twice during the season.

The starting five players—Jim Philhour and Harley Lange at forwards, Harold Odell at center, and Reed Hanley and Walter Addis at the guards—received considerable plaudits from opposing coaches for their great defensive work, which was actually the key to their success. Philhour was chosen to the tourney all star team by the officials.

propelled Fairbury into the state finals at Champaign among a field of 22 teams. The squad making the trip was composed of, in addition to the five already named, Cliff Mundell, Laural Sutton, Vernon Teal, James Smith, Ross Anderson and Coach Ned Whitesell.

The team was transported to the finals by train, first going to Chenoa on the T. P. & W., and then to Bloomington. At Bloomington the squad held a practice session in the Bloomington high school gym, and then continued on by train to Champaign.

The Green and Gold met Collinsville in the opening round of the state finals on the afternoon of Thursday, March 17, and lost 21-15.

The game was not decided until midway in the final period. Collinsville took a 4-1 lead after one quarter of play, but Fairbury came back strong in the second period, scoring seven points while holding Collinsville scoreless, to take an 8-4 lead at the half.

THE THIRD QUARTER ended in an 11-11 deadlock, but Collinsville poured in ten points in the final period to take the victory.

Addis shared scoring honors for the game with Collinsville's Jokerst, each scoring 11 points. Seven of Addis' points came on free throws, the same total made by the entire Fairbury team. Collinsville outscored Fairbury in field goals, nine to four.

Collinsville went on to beat Flora, 19-17, in their second game, but then lost to Batavia 24-9. Batavia then lost to New Trier, 33-28, which in turn lost to Marion, 26-24, in the championship game.

The only team ever to represent Fairbury in the state basketball finals thus ended their season with a record of nine wins and ten losses. Following are the scores of the games played in the 1920-21 season:

OPPONENT	F	O	
Chatsworth	19	24	L
Melvin	18	17	W
Forrest	32	10	W
Kankakee	17	19	L
Normal	29	10	W
Pontiac	18	20	L
Saunemin	12	16	L
Odell	41	20	W
Dwight	26	12	W
Forrest	11	13	L
Pontiac	9	20	L
Saunemin	17	22	L
Lexington	21	28	L
Colfax	22	17	W*
Atlanta	13	10	W*
Stanford	22	11	W*
Saunemin	17	9	W*
Collinsville	15	21	L**

*District tournament

**State tournament

This Fairbury high school basketball team went to sectional tournament in 1938, one of the three Tartar teams to do so since the present District-Regional-Sectional set-up was originated around 1935.

Players are, left to right, first row, George Walker, Jim Lester, Reuben Huber, Glen Cooper, Elmer Hallock, Ersoll Runyon, Carlyle Hayes, Glen Sparks. Second row, Coach Burdell Smith, Bill Weber, Lloyd Fosdick, Herbert Patrick, Eugene Carlson, Dewey Demler, Hugh Henning, Willard Bess, Oval Vernia, John Ziegenhorn, Richard Atteberry, Principal A. C. Watson.

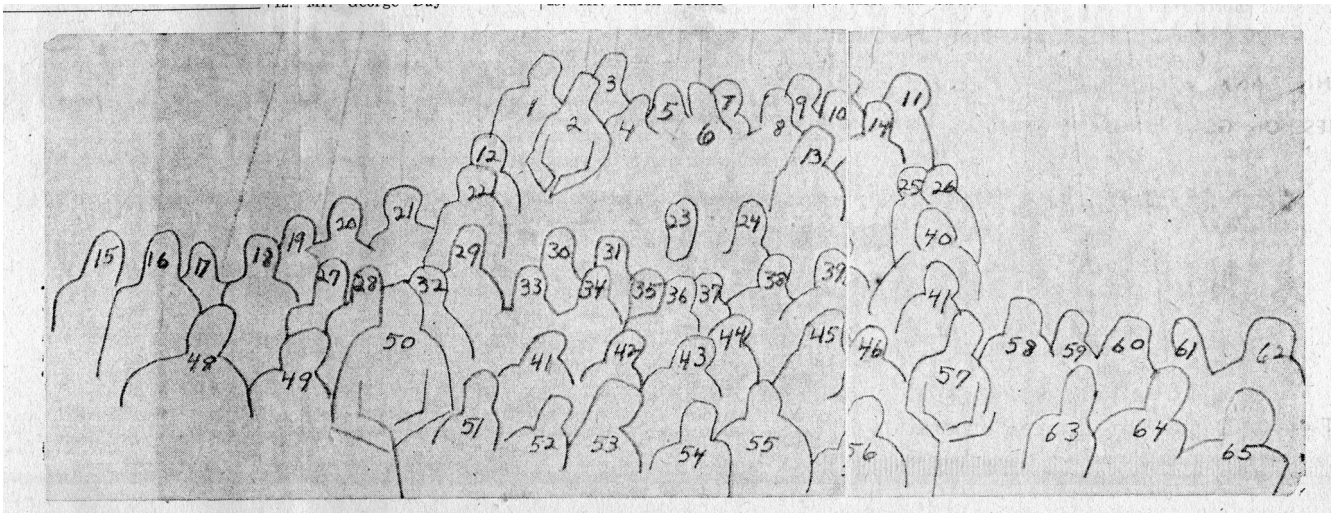
Third row, manager Ross Hildreth, David Voris, Donald Clark, Bernard Sieg, Joe Franger, Chester Powell, Donald Watts, Dick Gouge, John Reis, manager John Fugate.

The 1917-18 "Wonder Five" was one or two Fairbury H. S. basketball team to go through the regular season undefeated. The squad lost two games in the district tournament, but still finished season with 14-2 record, best percentage-wise in the history of the school. The team won the county tournament held at Fairbury Feb. 8-9, 1918.

Left to right, the players are Harry Clemens, Perry Kingdon, Marshall Fitzgerald, Leland Presler, Howard Stuckey, Wade Morrison, Donald Karnes, Nelson Mundell, Harry Foster and Coach G. G. Green.

Sixty-five were in attendance at the Old Folks dinner held at the Methodist church in 1913. Match following list of names with numbered table for identification of each person.

1. Mr. Hugh McKee
2. Mr. G. B. Gordon
3. Mrs. G. B. Gordon
4. Mrs. Aaron Becker
5. Mrs. John Ulfers.
6. Mrs. Simon Baeckler
7. Mrs. George Day
8. Mrs. John Kring, Jr.
9. Mr. John Kring, Jr.
10. Mrs. P. C. Stockham
11. Mr. P. C. Stockham
12. Mr. George Day
13. Mrs. Joe Dexter
14. Mrs. E. S. Wilson
15. Mr. Logan Kring
16. Mr. Charles Steinberg
17. Mr. James Blakesley
18. Mrs. Edna Ross Anderson.
19. Mrs. Mona Kring Baker
20. Mrs. Jessie Love.
21. Miss Olive McKee
22. Mr. Robert Watt.
23. Mr. Hugh Robinson
24. Mr. D. A. Robinson (his brother)
25 Rev. E. S. Wilson
26. Mrs. Jennie Van Dorn
27. Mrs. Ross
28. Mrs. Isaac Kerr
29. Mr. Aaron Becker
30. Mrs. H. Hornbeck
31. Mrs. Earnhart
32. Mrs. William Fugate, Sr.
33. Mr. David Wright
34. Mrs. Tena Hahn
35. Mrs. Lanfer
36. Mrs. McGann
37. Mrs. Decatur Veatch
38. Mrs. Matheny
39. Mrs. Charles Crowe
40. Mr. Magaan
41. Mrs. Sally Lowe
42. Mrs. Gideon Powell
43. Mrs. Phoebe Dominy
44. Mrs. Hurdle
45. Mrs. Martha Powell
46. Mrs. James Kirby
47. Mrs. Dan Street
48. Mr. John Will McDowell
49. Mrs. Ed Meeker
50. Mr. Gilbert Evans
51. Miss Hazel Bane (Goudy.)
52. Miss Leona James (Claudon.)
53. Mrs. Gertie Henderson.
54. Mrs. Franc McDowell
55. Mr. James Kirby
56. Rev. Gideon Powell-pastor.
57. Mrs. Knox
58. Mrs. McCullough
59. Mrs. Marian Patton
60. Mrs. Higbee
61. Mrs. Robert Watt
62. Mrs. Marvin Goold
63. Mrs. Rebecca Crull
64. Mr. Simon Baeckler
65. Mr. Marvin Goold.



High School Posts Winning Basketball Record Through Past Forty-four Seasons

Fairbury high school basketball teams have given an excellent account of themselves in the past 44 years.

The game has changed considerably from the days of peach baskets nailed to two walls, and many associated with early FHS teams can vividly recall playing in unheated halls, opera houses and any other structure which could accommodate ten players, a water bucket, and of course, people to watch.

Compiling any comprehensive account of high school teams of the past is replete with pitfalls, and the writer of such an article must guard against statements which might seem to belittle some segment of history, or enlarge upon another, with resulting unfairness to both.

WHAT FOLLOWS IS a summary of some of the FHS teams of the past, and no attempt is made to evaluate the teams. Prospective merits of basketball teams, just as with horses, are meant to be argued down through the ages. And, as afore stated, the game has changed so much since its beginning, that to compare a 1920 team with a 1950 team, even if one were so inclined, would be like attempting to subtract two apples from four oranges.

Organized basketball in Fairbury schools had rather an inauspicious beginning, in that the first team was composed entirely of girls. The girls team was formed, according to the memories of those in school about that time, in 1901. Harley Bedell recalls that the first boys team was organized in 1902, but even then there is some doubt that this group could be called a true representative of the high school, in that the school gave it no support, and the players themselves had to cough up hall rental money out of their own pockets.

The first game, Harley remembers, was played in Maple's hall, which was located above the store now occupied by Zimmerman's hardware. Rental fee for the hall was $2.50, and in addition, the Fairbury boys had to pay the expenses of the Chenoa team, which furnished the opposition. This amounted to about 25 cents train fare, round trip, for each of the seven Chenoa players.

The six players who formed the first team were Palmer Westervelt, Bert Claudon, Shabbney DeMoss, Perry Keck, Ralph Potter and Bedell. The score of the game? Fairbury won, 28-22.

“I think we played about two or three games that year”, Harley said. “There was little interest among the boys in school because of the cost involved in renting the halls.”

The group played some more games in 1903, and in 1904, C. E. DeButts, then superintendent of schools, made the first step in getting the school to back a basketball team. He got little support from the board of education that year, but by the following year the idea had apparently taken root, for the mention of a high school team playing a basketball game is found for the first time in the Blade of December of that year. In the lineup were:

Westervelt,
Potter,
Gregg,
Tavener,
Carrithers.

The team had moved into the old Central Opera house, which now houses the Loy-Ola theatre, by that time, and although a few ringers were to show up now and then in the lineup during the year, Fairbury high school basketball was successfully launched.

A 1910 lineup lists Rockwood, Crumbaker, Wade, Worrik and King as the players in a game in which Fairbury whacked Flanagan, 38-6.

It was in 1915 that Fairbury high school basketball really got off the ground, however. With E. W. Powers, superintendent of schools acting as the guiding hand, a “new and spacious” gymnasium was included in the plans for a new township high school building constructed in 1914 and 15, and it was in December of the latter year that coach G. R. Green led a team of Tartars out upon its hardwood floor for the first time. The gym, at the time one of the best in this entire section of the state, was dedicated with a rousing 35-9 victory over Chenoa, brought about by the play of Dillon, DeMoss, Dixon, Foster, Mammen, Jenkins, Somers and Israel.

APPEARING AT THE end of this article is a list of the records compiled by FHS teams from the 1915-16 season up to the present time. As stated in the opening sentence. FHS teams have given an excellent account of themselves since that time. They have won 554 games and lost 413 for a .572 winning percentage over the past 44 seasons.

If the building of the gym in 1915 was an important step in the evolution of Fairbury basketball, then the team of 1917-18 was most certainly responsible for putting the name of Fairbury high school in the cage limelight.

The team went through its 15 game schedule undefeated, a feat which gained for it the name of “The Wonder Five”, and stamps it as one of the really great squads in Fairbury history. Many who played on that team are still well-known in Fairbury today. There was Harry Clemens, Marshall Fitzgerald, Don Karnes, Harry Foster, Nelson Mundell, Perry Kingdon, Leland Presler and Wade Morrison on the team.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY HAD a tournament of its own in those days, and the Fairbury quintet romped home winners in the meet by humiliating Chatsworth 83-5, whipping Dwight 50-19 and edging Pontiac 19-17. The 83 points against Chatsworth, as near as can be determined, remained the school scoring record for 37 years, until the 1954-55 team got 84 against Cornell. The present record of 95 points was

set Jan. 13, 1956 against Cornell.

Among the accomplishments of the “Wonder Five” were victories over Streator, Peoria, Kankakee, Normal, Pontiac, Washington and the Camp Grant army team, and a 42-2 victory over Forrest. The 78 point margin of victory over Chatsworth will probably stand until after this sheet has crumbled to dust.

Misfortune overtook the Wonder Five at the close of the regular season. Nels Mundell developed mumps, but was spirited out of his sick bed and put on the basketball floor at Bloomington where he led his team to a 28-24 win over Delevan. Kingdon, the other leading scorer of the team along with Mundell, was ill with diptheria at the same time, and as a result the Tartars were blistered in their next two tourney games, losing to University High 32-9 and to Bloomington, 52-11.

ANOTHER ILLUSTRIOUS page in Fairbury high school cage history was written by the 1920-21 squad, coached by Ned Whitesell. It was a paradoxical team, in that it was the only one which had a losing record under Whitesell, yet it caught fire at the end of the season and became the first and only quintet ever to represent Fairbury in the state tournament. This accomplishment will not be dealt with here, for it is treated at greater length in another article in this section.

Whitesell-coached squads won the county championship three years running in the 1919-1921 and 1921-22 seasons, and his 1922-23 team matched the Wonder Five's feat of winning every one of its regularly scheduled games.

The 1922-23 team ran afoul of the “Kids From Kornell” in the Fairbury district, bowing out an early round to Cornell, 17-13. Cornell went on to win the tourney.

Players of the highly successful Whitesell era included Ralph Slaughter, Philhour, Addis Meeker, Lange, Anderson, Odell, Hanley, Goembel, Wharton, Vail, Herzog and Mundell.

Under coach Norsworthy in 1924-25 the locals won their fourth County championship in seven years, and the following season were Illini Conference champions for the first time. When Norsworthy moved on at the end of that season, Ralph Arends took over the coaching reigns and ushered in one of the brightest eras in FHS basketball history.

ARENDS, FOURTH IN the line of the 14 FHS basketball coaches since 1915, stayed the longest—seven years—and turned out some of the best teams. During the first six years of his tenure, his teams won 104 games and lost only 43.

His best squads were the ones of 1930-31 and 1931-32. The former was the first Fairbury team ever to win 20 games in one season, finishing with a 21-4 mark for an .840 winning percentage. The team that year won the county tournament, and the following season returned to form one of the finest of Fairbury quintets.

The 1931-32 team, composed of Alvin Hartman, Clifford Henderson, Jean Bedell, Clarence King, Virgil Munz, John Darnall, C. Tipton, K. Hayes and H. Paternoster compiled a 24-5 record, again won the county tournament and added the district tourney and the championship of the Illini Conference. In sectional tournament play, the Green and Gold ripped Bradley 30-20 and Fairmount, 24-12, and were on the threshold of becoming the second team to represent the city in the state finals.

But playing against Rantoul, a team they had beaten 22-8 during the regular season, Fairbury was

nosed out, 15-14, in the sectional finals.

J. E. ROSE CAME to Fairbury in 1933-34, and after a losing season his first year and an 18-12 record the next, he succeeded in coaching another powerful Fairbury squad in the 1935-36 season. Known then as “The Rosemen”, Fairbury won 16 and lost eight and won the championship of the Big Vermilion conference. Don Barnes, Chuck Addis, Buck Morris, Bedel, Kurth and Blair were the mainstays of that team.

Burdell “Buck” Smith inherited the Green and Gold from Rose at the beginning of the 1936-37 season, and in his five seasons here gained the reputation as one of the most respected coaches in the area. “Buck” coached his team to a regional championship in 1937-38, and came back the next season with a squad which won 18 of 25 games and the championship of the Corn Belt conference.

Regional tournaments took the place of the districts sometime around 1935 and the 37-38 team was the first of three Fairbury teams to have won a regional title up to this time. (The 1936-37 team won second place in the regional of that year, and under the rules of that time, advanced to the Ottawa sectional where they lost to LaSalle-Peru, which went on to the state tournament).

The '37-'38 team copped the regional championship with a 30-28 victory over U. High as Glenn Cooper topped both teams in scoring with 10 points. In their first game of the Pontiac sectional, Fairbury was defeated by Toluca, 42-29.

PLAYING ON THE 1937-38 squad in addition to Cooper were Willard Bess, Ursul Runyon, Eugene Carlson, Hugh Henning, William Weber, Richard Atteberry, Herbert Patrick, Glenn Sparks, Reuben Huber, James Lester, Elmer Hallock, Carlisle Hayes, George Walker and Sterling Craig. Ross Hildreth and John Fugate were managers.

Smith-coached teams won 79 and lost 43, with one of those victories being especially memorable. It happened in the Pontiac tournament in 1936 when the Tartars knocked off Decatur, 32-26. Decatur was to go on to win the state championship that same season.

In Smith's last season here in 1940-41, Bill Weber, Ray Bess, Don Clark, Leon Knopp, Chester Powell and Hugh Henning contrived for a sparkling 17-7 record.

Verne Thompson became coach at the beginning of the 1941-42 season, but left in mid-year for service in the Navy. He was succeeded by Frank Leach, who remained only until the end of the 1942-43 team when he, too, answered the call to duty. The group of freshmen and sophomores with which Leach had been working blossomed out the following two seasons into another Fairbury powerhouse.

Under Luke Gleason, the 1943-44 squad won 18 games while losing only six, captured the Corn Belt conference title, and won the regional tournament. Led by Capt. Alden Beckley, Bob Ziegenhorn, Bill Wilkin and Bill Woodward, the team put up a spirited scrap to make up for a lack of height, but lost their first sectional game to Marseilles, 33-30.

VISIONS OF ANOTHER appearance in the state tournament danced through the heads of Fairburians during the 1944-45 season, as the Tartars, paced by 6-5 Bill Wilken, Dale Dameron, Ziegenhorn, Ralph Knopp and Sam Runyon, raced through a 29 game regular schedule with only four defeats. The team repeated as Corn Belt conference champions, secured a rating at one time of 13th in the state, and knocked off 10th ranked Paris 42-29 in the Paris holiday tournament, in which they finished second.

But in the second game of the regional tournament at Lexington, Gridley, a team they had beaten twice before during the regular season, tripped up the Tartars 38-37 on a last second basket from the center of the floor. Their mark of 26 victories still stands as the record number of games ever won by a Fairbury team in one season.

From the peak of winning 44 games out of 55 in two seasons, the Tartars lapsed into their leanest years. From the beginning of the 1945-46 season to the end of the 1950-51 season, the Tartars failed to win more than seven games in any one season, and hit bottom in 1948-49 when the squad played 24 games and lost 21 of them.

The way back to previous glory was begun in 1951-52 when, under Bob Hainline, Fairbury won 16 and lost 11 and won the championship of their own invitational tournament by upsetting Gibson City 45-42 in the championship game.

JOHN REAKES TOOK over from Hainline in 1952-53, and suffered three more losing seasons before the present coach, George Fyke, and a new group of sharp-eyed Fairbury firebrands combined to lift Fairbury back among the powers of the area.

The Green and Gold in 1955-56, the first year under Fyke, won 16 and lost 11, captured the championship of the Midstate conference, and again won first place in their own invitational tournament.

The 1956-57 team, led by Dick Doran, who broke the scoring records of Ron Thomas set the year before by becoming the first Fairbury player ever to score over 600 points in one season (he scored 638), became the fourth Fairbury team to win over 20 games, chalking up a 23-7 record. They again won the Midstate conference championship, and finished fourth in the Paris tournament. A regional title also seemed a distinct possibility, but again, the three-times-in-one season jinx de-railed the Tartars. Twice during the season the Green and Gold had defeated Forrest, but in the regional finals at Normal, the Eskimos won, 78-69.

Even though losing the services the following year of two of their better players, guard Dave Yeck, and center Kenneth Bazzell, the team otherwise remained intact and came back stronger than ever in the season just completed.

DORAN, JIM MOORE, Dick Kafer, Leroy Ward, and Roger Bach led the team through its first 23 games with but two defeats, and won the championship of the United conference and the Dwight invitational tourney. A rating of 17th in the state was given the Tartars for their 21-1 record, but lady luck turned her back on the team in their last three games of the season.

Lexington hit 85 percent of their shots in the second half to topple the Tartars 76-73, Gibson City won 63-51 and Forrest edged past the locals 63-62. But the team stormed back to win the school's third regional crown by beating Octavia, U. High and Forrest, and gain a berth in the LaSalle-Peru sectional.

Playing Ottawa, which had been ranked first in the state at the beginning of the season, the Tartars bowed out in their first game.

OTHER INTERESTING NOTES about the local high school team include the fact that, since 1915, the team has worn the colors of green and gold. No mention of the beginning of the nickname "Tartars" is

to be found in any of the old newspapers, nor can anyone shed much authoritative light on the subject.

The first game in the present new gymnasium was played Feb. 9, 1951, with Pontiac winning 50-45.

The team has had 28 winning seasons, 15 losing seasons, and one dead even. Fairbury has won six county championships (the county tourney was discontinued in the mid-30's), two districts, three regionals, seven conference championships and three invitational tournament championships.

F. H. S. SCORING RECORDS at the end of the 1957-58 season were Most points ever made in one game by Fairbury, 95, against Cornell Jan. 13, 1956; most points ever made by one player in one game, 42, by Ronald Thomas against El Paso Feb. 4, 1955; most points ever made by one player in one season, 638, by Dick Doran, 1956-57 season; most points ever scored by one player during career, 1,808 last year, by Dick Doran, 1953-54 through 1957-58 seasons; most field goals in one season, 272, by Doran, 1956-57 season; most field goals by one player in single game, 17, by Doran, against Wilmington in Paris tournament Dec. 27, 1956; highest field goal shooting percentage, .496, by Thomas in 1955-56 season.

One of the best basketball teams in Fairbury high school history, this 1931-32 squad won 24, lost only five, and missed a trip to the state finals at Champaign by one point when they lost to Rantoul in the sectional tournament finals, 15-14. The team had beaten Rantoul two weeks before, 22-8.

The team was champions of the Illini conference and won both the county and district tournaments. It was coached by Ralph Arends, whose teams during his six years here compiled a .707 winning percentage, best of any FHS coach.

In the picture are back row, left to right: coach Arends, M. Jones, K. Mowry, L. Hartman, G. Gibb, S. Barnes, J. Wink. Second row: W. Paternoster, A. Huddleston, C. Tipton, J. Weber, V. Demler, K. Hayes, H. Munz. Sitting: C. King, H. Patterson, H. Hartman, J. Bedell, V. Munz C. Henderson and J. Darnall, Fultz photo.

The Famous Bon Ton Limits

Year	W	L	T	Pts	O.Pts
1913	1	3	0	13	174
1914	1	5	0	31	201
1915	2	2	0	66	78
1916	2	3	1	54	150
1917	5	0	0	118	12
1918	No games played				
1919	3	1	0	183	19
1920	2	4	0	179	261
1921	3	2	0	103	41
1922	3	1	1	96	7
1923	3	3	0	117	60
1924	3	2	2	43	60
1925a	4	0	3	52	26
1926	0	4	2	6	51
1927a	7	1	0	162	26
1928	5	3	0	112	43
1929a	6	2	0	219	48
1930	5	2	0	155	61
1931	7	0	1	205	32
1932	6	2	1	161	66
1933	2	4	0	44	95
1934	6	3	0	109	99
1935b	8	0	1	219	34
1936	1	7	0	32	157
1937	3	4	1	72	64
1938	3	5	1	74	96
1939	3	7	0	93	170
1940	4	2	2	67	74
1941	3	6	0	79	160
1942	3	4	1	89	91
1943	9	1	0	236	65
1944c	9	1	0	223	96
1945	4	3	2	83	98
1946	1	7	0	14	185
1947	1	5	2	26	179
1948	1	7	0	50	166
1949	4	5	0	147	95
1950d	9	0	0	231	62
1951	7	2	0	199	82
1952	6	2	1	176	102
1953	4	5	0	91	160
1954	4	5	0	136	138
1955	5	2	2	146	65
1956d	8	1	0	306	46
1957	3	1	0	261	121
	182	129	24	5283	4096

a Illini Conference champions
b Tri-County Conference champions
c Corn Belt Conference champions
d Midstate Conference champions

The 1914 Fairbury high school football team was notable for two reasons. It won only one game and was the last squad to go forth to battle from the old high school building, which is now the Walton school.

In the picture are, left to right, back row, W. M. R. Baker, coach; Charles Vail, George Foster, Walter Dailey, George Mowry, Middle row, J. G. Masterson, Wilbur Best, David McDonald, Woodford Churchill, George Jenkins, Floyd Stafford. Front row, William Mammen, Joe Champman. Scott Me Dowell, John Frye and Alda Foster.

Bon Ton Limits Was Top Independent Cage Team

by J. A. Patterson

Many basketball teams have come and gone. Some of these teams were remembered for a time, perhaps, because of some outstanding player, or that somewhere along the line they had put together what was then an enviable record as a team. However, it is doubtful if any local team, whether high school or otherwise, has had so many memories associated with it or held the attention over as long a period as the old Bon Ton Limits five.

They were a local organization, but their colorful, aggressive playing and their ability to win games focused attention upon them throughout this section of the state as well as in Fairbury.

They organized along about 1908 and for a number of years thereafter they furnished local basketball

enthusiasts with all the thrills and excitement that go with this great game. At the time of the organization there was in Fairbury an ice cream and soft drink parlor operated by W. J. Braun and R. C. (Cullie) Huntoon, and named the Bon Ton. There those interested in sports gathered and discussed basketball, football and other sports. The organization of the team took place in the Bon Ton. Naturally the team was named the Bon Tons, with the word "Limits" being added when one of the proprietors passed out "Limit" cigars in recognition of the fact that the team was named in honor of their place of business.

Among the original players on the team were Wesley Hanson, Lionel Jenkins, Carl Goudy, Jack Fugate, Perry Keck, John Joda, "Doc" Sam Wade and Derby Wilken. The co-managers of the team were Charlie Schnetzler and Jim Patterson. The Bon Ton "bench" consisted of one or two extra players. In fact that bunch of hardies seldom needed a substitute, the five starting players very often playing the entire game.

The old Fairbury opera house, where the picture show is now located, was the local playing court of the Bon Ton Limits, and when they played there it was almost always to a capacity crowd. The opera house was on the second floor of the building and only a small part of the large crowds could be seated. Those who came first occupied the row of chairs on each side of the playing floor. Back of them other spectators stood three and four deep, packed together like sardines in a can. Still other spectators filled the balcony.

Among the teams that came to Fairbury and drew crowds to the old opera house like a magnet were the Champaign Blues, the Gibson City "Yours Truly," the New York Nationals, the Peoria Tigers, the Piper City Moguls and the Wilmington Seals, to say nothing of a nationally known girls team.

The Champaign Blues were quite a team and it was always a battle down to the last second when they came to Fairbury. The Limits never went to Champaign to play and this was for a very good reason, that reason being that the Champaign Blues were composed mostly of University of Illinois players who played under assumed names and picked up a few extra dollars playing as the Blues.

The Piper City Moguls were also another fighting crew. On one of their visits here they came over on the noon train. They wanted to practice, but the opera house was locked and the management wouldn't turn over the key to them. That didn't stop them too long; they just got a hammer and broke off the lock. They sprinkled the slippery floor with rosin and practiced to their heart content. That was not all. They trimmed the Limits that night and went home with their pockets lined with Fairbury money. The spectators from Piper City came over that evening for the game on the six o'clock train (a couple of hundred of them) and went back after the game on a special train they had chartered for the occasion.

When the Limits had a hard game coming up and felt they needed a little more bench depth they would import Fred "Brick" Young, of Bloomington, who recently retired as sports editor of the Pantagraph, or Dr. Norman Elliott, also of Bloomington, or perhaps Brick's younger brother.

In speaking of the seating capacity of the old Fairbury opera house, we neglected to say that there were some "reserved" seats. Some of the small boys soon learned that some of the young bloods of Fairbury, who came in late with their lady friends were willing to pay for seats. Accordingly these young fry were always there when the doors opened, grabbed the choice seats and later sold them at a profit.

The Famous Bon Ton Limits

Basketball enthusiasm may have reached an all-time peak here in the second decade of the 20th century when the Bon Ton Limits carried the talents and reputation of Fairbury players into far corners of the state.

An independent team, the Limits were considered by many THE team in Fairbury, and the embryo high school team was often times forced into a back seat by the accomplishments of the Bon Ton's.

The squad above is the 1910-11 edition of the Limits. They are, left to right, top row, Lionel Jenkins, guard. Wesley Hanson, center; Sam B. Wade, captain and guard. Second row, Charles Schnetzler, referee; James A. Patterson, manager. Bottom row, Perry J. Keck, forward, John Fugate, guard; Carl Goudy, forward.

If you wonder at the title of referee which Mr. Schnetzler carried, you must remember that the opponents of the Bon Ton's always had one with them, also.

The write-up appearing below this picture in the March 10, 1911 edition of the Blade was as follows:

The players and fans of the Bon Ton Limits have good and sufficient reason to feel chesty over the basketball season just closed. The local quintet met and defeated most, if not all of the fast teams within a radius of fifty miles, and more than offset its single defeat at the hands of the Pontiac Y. M. C. A. by the decisive drubbing it administered to the Pontiac players earlier in the season. The record hung up is a good one and it is to be regretted that the Limits were not members of a regularly organized league so that definite claims for championship could be considered. The players have worked hard and deserve much praise and credit from the people of this city.

The Bon Tons were particularly fortunate in the versatility of the players. Shifts were possible without weakening either the offense or defense, and this helped greatly in securing the long string of victories. Sam Wade, the captain, played a strong game at guard. His work was characterized by dash and generalship and he was usually conspicious in breaking up the opponents' team work. Wesley Hanson, at center, played brilliantly throughout the season. A consistent goal tosser and an excellent jumper, he made the use of signals something more than a mere formality. He has the edge on the other members of the team in the number of points garnered.

Perry Keck, at forward, is a player of long experience. His place in the running game of the Limits was important, and his basket throwing was often phenominal. Carl Goudy, the other forward, was one of the shiftiest men on the team. Light and fast, he generally escaped from his guard. His work was characterized by ability to dribble well, throw his guard off balance, and incidentally slip the leather sphere through the ring.

Fugate, who was used as a substitute guard played a strong defensive game when called upon, and the team was never weakened when a regular was forced to quit and "Jack" took his place. His work drew rounds of applause from the fans. Jenkins, the foul thrower of the team, showed surprising accuracy with the donated throws. He was also a clever dribbler and a safe man to pass to when under the goal. One of the salient points in summing up the Limits play was the nicely adjusted balance of the players and the machine-like team work which resulted from strenuous and frequent practices. The games

played were as follows:

BTL 66, Forrest 15; BTL 42, Pontiac YMCA 17; Pontiac YMCA 28, BTL 18; BTL 27, Onarga 19; BTL 38, El Paso 21; BTL 21, Cabery 14; BTL 2, Cullom 0; BTL 25, Cabery 5; BTL 36, Eureka 23; BTL 48, Piper City 15.

Grade School Won State Cage Championship In 1954

The pinnacle of athletic success was reached here March 2, 1954 when the Fairbury grade school lightweight basketball team won the championship of the state of Illinois.

The local graders, coached by George Yeck, entered sectional play with a 6-4 season record, but then caught fire to roll up eight victories in a row over big school opposition and capture the championship from a field of 328 teams.

IN THE 16-TEAM finals held at Chillicothe, Fairbury downed three teams which had a combined record of 45 victories and only three losses during the season.

Sullivan, 10-1, fell in the first game, 43-29. In the second, Chillicothe, playing on their home floor and supported by 500 flag-waving rooters, lost to the locals 46-28. Canton, unbeaten for the season in 18 games and favored to win the tournament, was beaten by Fairbury in the semi-finals 28-23. The championship was won against Lincoln, 15-2, by a score of 45-33.

News of the grade school's success was telephoned to Fairbury and announced over the public address system at the high school gym, where the regional tournament was under way. At the announcement, a great cheer went up from the crowd.

A VICTORY PARADE planned to go out and meet the returning champions was cancelled when a snow storm struck, making roads impassable. The team and its followers themselves were forced to spend the night in a farm house near Gridley when the snow closed in.

They made their belated but triumphant return to Fairbury early the following morning.

Five iron "men" played the entire tournament almost without substitution. Gary Stevens led the team in scoring throughout the tourney, with 57 points. Dick Kafer had 36, Roger Bach 33, Bill Seifert 21 and Dave Yeck 16. Other members of the championship team were Jack Schuler, Marshall Kaisner, Tom Hetherington and Don Bazzell. Chuck Wharton was manager.

Fairbury High School Football Teams Have 182-129 Record

In the 45 seasons since 1913, Fairbury high school football teams have chalked up 182 victories while losing 129 games and tying 24. Counting the ties as a half game won a half game lost, the Tartars have a .579 winning percentage over the years.

Five times the Green and Gold have gone undefeated through an entire season, and these teams are treated at length in another article appearing in this section. These were the teams of 1917, 1925, 1931, 1935, and 1950.

SEVEN OTHER Fairbury teams almost reached the pinnacle of an unblemished record, losing but one of their games. These were the squads of 1919, 1922, 1927, 1943, 1944, 1956 and 1957.

Seven Fairbury teams have won conference championships. The teams of 1925, 1927, and 1929 captured the Illini conference crown, the Tri-County championship was won in 1935, the Corn Belt in 1944 and the Midstate in 1950 and 1956.

It is generally acknowledged that the first high school team was organized in 1899, but attempts to uncover any semblance of authentic records between then and 1913 met with failure. Some 1905 scores were recalled by Harley Bedell, but as it was impossible to fill in the many gaps, editors of this centennial issue thought it best to start the records out with the 1913 season and proceed from there. It is known that no team existed from 1909 through 1912, so 1913 seems not too bad a starting point, at that.

Playing on the 1899 team were Leroy Kirby, J. A. Patterson, Albert Albeck, Bert Thompson, Ora Gordon, Fred Bethard, Ro Bartlett, Will Rudd, Albert Travis, Edward McAllister and R. R. A. McAllister. In those days, the boys furnished their own uniforms and shoes, and they were fortunate indeed if the school went so far as supplying one football for the season.

EVEN THEN, “ringers” were not uncommon in high school games, and it was pretty close to the second decade of the century before high school football became accredited to any great degree by the schools themselves.

Some memorable games and dates of the past 45 years include the four games of the 1920 season, which must have been a dilly. The Tartars opened with a 60-0 win over Gilman, and then were beaten by Gridley the following week, 104-0. The very next week the locals atoned for the shellacking by lacing Chenoa 100-0, but two weeks later, El Paso trimmed Fairbury 97-0.

Odell, Lange, Philhour, Hanley, Wright, Beckley, Presler and Mundell were names on the 1920 squad, which was definetely a season with its ups and downs. The 104 points scored by Gridley is still the most ever scored against a Fairbury team, and the 100 racked up by the Tartars against Chenoa is the most ever scored by a Fairbury team. The second highest number of points ever scored by Fairbury is 60, made by the 1929 team, also against Chenoa.

FAIRBURY’ SCHEDULE was for many years dotted with teams representing much larger cities. Streator, Ottawa, Peoria Manual and Peoria Central were foes in the 1930’s, while in the 40’s U. High, Normal and Trinity were regulars on the schedule.

The first game on Lewis Field was played in the 1916 season, and the first night game played in Fairbury was against Trinity in the 1948 season.

The 1956 and 1957 teams set a school record by winning 14 games in a row, covering a span between a 22-6 loss to Pontiac in the third game of the 1956 season to a 32-7 defeat at the hands of Gibson City in the final game of the 1957 season.

The winningest teams were the 1943 and 1944 squads, each of which won nine games. The 1936, 1946, and 1948 teams hold the dubious distinction of having lost the most in one season—seven. Only one team in history ever went through a season without winning at least one game. That was the 1926 team which lost four and tied two.

THE 1956 TEAM scored the most points of any Fairbury eleven—306, while the 1922 team had the best defensive record, giving up just seven points in five games.

In the 335 football games played by Fairbury since 1913, they have scored 5,283 points for an average of 15.7 per game, while their opponents have scored 4,096, a 12.2 points per game average.

Build Brick Water Tower In Year 1899

taken from issue of December 1, 1899

The following report was made by the committee on water tower:

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council: The new water tower is now to the city for acceptance. It is practically finished. The brick work is a first class job, perfectly plum and full height. The wood work is done as per specifications, but most of it has only one coat of paint. The tank still leaks some at the bottom, but only a few drops per minute; this is the case in several places. The pipe running up the tower is not straight but does not leak only at the connection at the bottom of the tank, which is now being fixed. As it is now too late in the season for further work, arrangements have been made with W. L. Mulford to clean brick work and to do the rest of the painting, stop all leaks and fix all the other imperfections that may show during the winter, all to be finished by May 1st, 1900, the city to retain $75 of the contract money for the faithful performance of such work.

The cost of the tower is:

W. L. Mulford, contract	$3641.00
Extra foundation	90.83
Extra valves and fittings	67.88
Extra Mains	78.00
Extra cupolo and ladder	12.50
Total	3890.21
T. D. George Supt.	94.65
Advertising bids	20.00
Plans	20.00
G. B. Brownson	2.00
Total cost of tower	4026.96

Mulford has been paid $3,465.21.
Balance due him $425.

Alderman Churchill moved that the report of the tower committee be accepted. Motion prevailed unanimously.

Alderman Claudon moved that work of tearing down old tower be left to the discretion of the committee. Motion carried. Council adjourned.

The Fairbury bicycle club posed for this picture about a half-century ago. Left to right, they are Dr. H. B. Bull, John Schanstock, Harry Amsbury, E. D. Powell Bangs, Belle Wade, Frank Church- Daisy Virgin, Harry Cook, Goldie ill, Phil Wade, Mayme Braun, G. A. Sutton ——, George P. Westervelt, Laurent McDonald, Maude Cook, Jessie Ramsey, Prof. J. E. Joy, Ray Earnhart and Anita Pence Purdum.

TRANSCRIPTION NOTE:

The Blade incorrectly did the caption for this old photograph.

The home of R. G. Crouch, which stood on Hickory street, is shown above. Mr. and Mrs. Crouch are standing. Seated is "Grandma" Ray, who was 106 at the time of her death.

GAMMA DELTA SORORITY of some years ago posed prettily for this photo by Fultz. All were not identified, but those named included Esther Gooding, Neva Bethel, Lois Gaines, Emma Cox, Marie Spence and Mayme Westervelt.

Two remaining charter members of the Home Domestic Science club, organized in 1913, are Mrs. Graves, Chicago, and Mrs. Edw. Orendorff.

Recalls How Fairbury Fair Was Organized

(taken from issue Sept. 10, 1909)

Very few if any now living know the real origination of the Fairbury fair. At that time I was residing on the farm on the west side of Indian Grove and Pontiac and Belle Prairie townships were each holding an annual fair the Belle Prairie fair was a small, one-day fair, with no buildings for the accomodation of patrons and Pontiac being so far from me, that I conceived the idea of getting up a fair at Fairbury. I first mentioned the fact to John G. Steers, then living at Indian Grove, and asked him to assist me in starting a fair at Fairbury. He replied that he was a director in the Belle Prairie fair and would be censured if he assisted at Fairbury. I then asked John Virgin to put his wits to work for a fair at Fairbury. He replied that Pontiac was having a good fair and he did not like to antagonize it. So I went back to Mr. Steers and said to him: “We can get up a Fairbury fair at Fairbury that will be a credit to this county and your Belle Prairie fair will die. Let them kick you if they will. When we get a good fair at Fairbury they will accept the situation and fall in line and we will all be proud of it.” He then joined me for Fairbury. We called a meeting at the opera house and organized and appointed committees for the different work required. When John Virgin fell in line and with Dan Potter, Geo. Myers, Ed Norman, Joel Strawn, Ed Mahoney, Benj. Cumpston, and a few other kindred spirits we soon had the fair running in full blast. And it has been and is yet one of the most successful county fairs.

John F. Myers,
Bloomington, Ill.

Thomas House Catches Fire And Burns

taken from issue May 24, 1907

The Thomas House of this city, part of which was one of the two oldest buildings in the city, was totally destroyed by fire Monday afternoon. The fire broke out about 1:30 in the attic and was caused by a defective fuse. The day was chilly and at the request of some of the traveling men Clem Wright built a fire in the furnace. The proprietor, Mr. Haughn, had just started for the cellar to see how the fire was burning when the alarm was given. N. L. Wann first saw the smoke coming thru the roof. The firemen were on the ground promptly but the entire roof broke into a blaze almost before the first line of hose was throwing water. In spite of the efforts of the firemen, the fire made rapid headway and it was realized almost from the first that the Thomas House would soon be in ashes. But very little of the furniture in the hotel was saved. The office fixtures, and a little stuff out of the dining room was taken out. The piano was brought as far as the door but the roof and chimney commenced to fall and the men were ordered away. Where the fire was hottest the boiler on the range blew up with a heavy report. In less than two hours from the first discovery of the fire nothing remained but a mass of charred timbers and debris. F. E. Thomas carried $3500 insurance on the building and J. P. Haughn $1700 on furniture and fixtures.

The south part of the building was put up as a store building by William Mitchell in the winter of 1857 and among the spectators at the fire of Monday was one of the men who helped build it, Supervisor, G. B. Brownsen. There were also two other gentlemen present who saw the first timbers of the structure joined together. They were Patton John and John Kring. The Mitchell family ate their first dinner in the house Jan. 1, 1858. Along in the early sixties a man named Minor conducted a hotel in the building. Soon after the east and west end war broke out and John L. Marsh built the Livingston House (which was burned many years ago) and then a stock company was organized about 1870-71 and the main part of the Fairbury House was erected. There were then two depots in Fairbury on the T. P. & W., one on the site of the present depot and one in the block west of Stevens' lumber yard. About this time the Chicago & Paducah railroad was built. Wallace Amsbary was "Mine host" of the Fairbury House for a number of years and then the property was purchased by S. S. Rogers and operated by him for a number of years. The above picture was taken in 1886, while Mr. Rogers was proprietor. James Turner then took charge and afterwards F. E. Thomas purchased the property and owned it at the time of the fire. J. P. Haughn leased the property of Mr. Thomas about five years ago and was proprietor when the fire occurred. Mr. Haughn has conducted an excellent hostelry and built up a splendid business. He is at present making plans for the erection of a new modern hotel building. Mr. Haughn is a first-class hotel man and should be given every encouragement by the people of this city.

Von Tobel Sells Lumber Yard

(Taken from issue of December 1, 1899)

In another column will be found the announcement of Mr. Von Tobel in relation to selling his lumber yard to Jesse Stevens & Co. The new firm has taken possession and the lumber is being moved to their yards in the west end. It is to be regretted that Mr. Von Tobel found it necessary to dispose of his business rather than move the yard. He has been in business in Fairbury since 1869 and is considered one of the most substantial and reliable business men in the city. In his long business career he has built up a large patronage and his many customers and friends will be sorry to hear of his retirement. There is some talk of another lumber yard, but it is doubtful if it will ever be started. Mr. Stevens the head of the firm of Jesse Stevens & Co. is a thorough business man and has built up a large trade since taking charge of the yard here and is capable of holding the patronage which reverts to the firm by the purchase of Mr. Von Tobel's yards. We understand that the moving of the lumber will progress as rapidly as possible and the improvement committee will soon have the grounds at their disposal. They will no doubt begin at an early date to beautify the site.

Fairbury Grew Very Rapidly—For Awhile

In the year 1860, three years following the filing of the plat for the village of Fairbury, the town's population was 269. In the next 20 years it grew over eight times in size, reaching a population of 2,140 in 1880.

During the next decade, expansion fell to a trickle, the number of residents increasing to only 2,324 by 1890. But the following ten years were even leaner for the growth of the city, as the population actually dwindled to 2,187 in 1900.

For the next 40 years the city maintained a population level of between 2,150 to 2,350, with the official statistics revealing the 1940 population to be within 14 of that recorded a half-century before, or 2,310.

It was immediately following World War II that Fairbury began realizing a slow, but steady increase, a trend which is continuing at this time.

The 1950 census showed the city to contain 2,433 persons. New additions to the city since that time would indicate the present population to be well over 2,500—a new peak.

Caleb Patton Made First Wagon Tracks To Fairbury

Mr. Patton was born in Greene Co. Pennsylvania in 1816.

In 1856 he brought his wife and family to Livingston County, Illinois. He bought 303 acres of land where Fairbury has since grown up. As late as 1856, no road had been made east of Chenoa. Caleb Patton and his eight year old son, Francis Marion, coming by way of Chenoa, made the first wagon-tracks cross the prairies to the site of Fairbury, being guided by the stakes driven to mark the line of the Toledo, Peoria and Western Railroad, then awaiting construction.

When the eastern extension of the Peoria and Oquawka railroad (now the T. P. & W.) made a survey through the northern tier of sections in this township in 1857, Caleb Patton and two other men each

made a proposition to the stock holders of the company for the location of a town site.

Octave Chanute was one of the civil engineers of the road, and Mr. Patton agreed to give him one half of the town lots provided he would locate the village on his farm. The proposition was accepted and in November 1857 Mr. Patton laid out twenty-four blocks from portions of sections three and ten.

The village for a time was called South Avoca, Mr. Chanute suggested it be named “Pattonsburg” in honor of Mr. Patton, but Mr. Patton gave it the name “Fairbury.”

He was one of the members of the first school board elected at Fairbury.

He and his wife, with four others, organized the first Baptist church in their home. Mr. Patton donated four lots (where the Baptist church now stands) to be used as a building site for a new church. Two lots were sold and the money applied on the building fund for the church.

Mr. Patton was the grandfather of Mrs. Marshall Gordon.

Fairbury Played Tie With Peoria In 1899

The football game between Peoria and Fairbury high schools proved a close and exciting game, each failing to score. The Fairbury boys were outclassed in weight and age but held their opponents’ line wonderfully. Peoria’s goal was in danger only once, while at the first part of the game Peoria nearly scored, then they tried for a drop kick at goal and failed. There was much enthusiasm over the game as the ball was in the center of the field nearly all the time.

Thompson’s kicking was far superior to his opponents’. Purdum’s tackling and end runs were counters, while Salmon’s head-work was good. Alback proved superior to his opponent and broke through the line several times. Fairbury’s whole team played good team work while Peoria’s was ragged. Scranton and Kinsey were the Peoria stars. Peoria expected to win easily but were surprised to find such a fast team. This closes the season here and Fairbury finishes with a good honor.

The line up.

FAIRBURY	
Babb	L.E.
Patterson	L.T.
Alback	L.G.
R. McAlister	C
Rudd	R.G.
E., McAlister	R.T.
Travis	R.E.
Kirby	Q.B.
Purdum	L.H.
Salmon	R.H.
Thompson	F.B.
PEORIA	
Clarke	L.E.
Davidson	L.T.
Lyons	L.G.
Schraff	C.
Kelso	R.G.
Wiley	R.T.
Spruch	R.E.
Marlin	2.B.
Kinsey	F.B.
Scranton	L.H.
Gable	R.H.

Umpire, L. Dancy, Wesylan.
Referee, Engstrom, Peoria.

Interior of old Fairbury restaurant. Proprietor Ed Lovitt is at right.

Browning Club members shown on a trip to Starved Rock in 1931. They are, left to right, back row, Mrs. Jay Goold, Mrs. E. C. Zook, Mrs. Elmer L. Baily, Mrs. Roscoe Combes, Mrs. Ray Melvin, Bert Convis and E. C. Zook.

Front row, Mrs. Will Henning, Mrs. Jessie Love, Mrs. Levi Troehler, Mrs. Velva Davis, Mrs. I. L. Harris and Mrs. Bert

First Belle Prairie Home Bureau officials were, left to right, Mrs. W. C. Payne, president; Mrs. Virgil Mundell, recorder; Mrs. Bud Orth, treasurer; Mrs. Revis Pickering, vice-president; and Mrs. Ernest Hoffman, secretary.

Cheerful Givers group met about 30 years ago on the lawn of the Curtis Hoffman home to give play. Standing, left to right, are, Esther Deputy (Mrs. Douglas Kinzer), Mrs. Ernest Hoffman, Mrs. W. B. Travis, Mrs. Ira Beyers, Mrs. Frank Fouts, Mrs. Ralph Thomas, Mrs. Earl Boblett, Mrs. H. H. Hays, Mrs. Floyd Gritber (deceased), Mrs. Frank Dawson, Mrs. Ivan Crum, Mrs. George Jessup and Mrs. Orville Barnes Pearson. Seated are Mrs. Curtis Hoffman and Mrs. Ralph Deputy.

V.F.W. Women Organize In 1940

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Ladies Auxiliary to Fairbury Post Number 2450 organized August 12, 1940. Before a charter was issued we had to have 16 paid-up members. Now we still have paid-up charter members only these 5 members. Mrs. Pearle Betz, Mrs. Maria Easton, Mrs. Nola Hurt, Mrs. Sarah McFarland, Forrest, Ill., Miss Cecil Easton. We have lost three sisters by death, Mrs. Nellie Harris, Corrine Fox, Mrs. Eva Leister.

The other charter members were Mrs. Izetta Aaron, Mrs. Eula Farley, Miss Vera Farley, Miss Ruby Farley, Mrs. Dorothy Matthews, Mrs. Sara Norris, Mrs. Wilma Shields, Mrs. Pearl Waters, Mrs. Erna Winslow, Miss Katherine Hurt.

On August 12, 1940, a joint meeting of V. F. W. Post number 2450 and their new auxiliary was held in a hall (Gordon's Store now) to install their newly organized V. F. W. Auxiliary.

James Waters commander of Fairbury Post V.F.W. No. 2450 called meeting to order after which the new officers were presented and installed. Sister Nola Hurt, President; Sister Pearl Waters, Vice-President, Sister Erna Winslow, Vice Pres. Sister Sara Norris, secretary, Sister Ruby Farley, Treasurer, Sister Eulla Farley, Chaplain, Sister Wilma Shields, Conductress, Sister Vera Farley, guard, Sister Cecil Easton, patriotic instructor. Sister Dorothy Matthews and Sister Izetta Aarons and Sister Sarah McFarland were trustees.

The Chicago Post, No. 1503 Ladies Auxiliary were the installing officers. At the close of installation short talks were given by Sister Tudor (Mrs. Geo. Tudor of East Peoria) Auxiliary Pres. of the 7th District. Commander George Tudor of 7th Dist. Sister Luella Williams of South Wilmington, hospital chairman of State Dept. Sister Laura Lamb, Decatur, Dept. Treas. Commander Ray Eutsey of Streator Post No. 1492 and sister Marie Cooper, Bloomington, Illinois who organized the Fairbury V. F. W. Auxiliary.

Veterans and Auxiliary members were present from Chicago, Post No. 1503, East Peoria, Post No. 2072, Kankakee Post No. 2857, Dwight, Post No. 2608, Pontiac, Post No. 1009, Bloomington, Post No. 454, South Wilmington, Post No. 1740, Peoria Post No. 814, Decatur, Post No. 99, Streator, Post No. 1492, and Glen Ellyn Post No. 1824. Commanders at this meeting were Grant Cooper, Bloomington, Illinois, Howard Murphy, Pontiac, Illinois, John Rice of Glen Ellyn. There was one Auxiliary Pres. present Sister Irene Van Winkle of Pontiac, Illinois.

The Dist. President Sister Tudor stated a district meeting to be held Pontiac on Sept. 8. The Dept. Pres. Helen Green of Havana would be present we were asked to be there. A collection was taken up of $4.59 to be used as a Penny Fund. After meeting adjourned the Fairbury V. F. W. Aux. served lunch.

At first election of officers Pontiac Ladies Aux. assisted. We have had 11 Pres: Sister Nola Hurt; Sister Pearl Waters; Sister Florine (Fosdick) Schlicher; Sister Catherine Newman; Sister Inez Walker; Sister Myrtle Painter (Forrest, Ill.); Sister Sarah McFarland, (Forrest); Sister Emma Hetherington; Sister Elsie Newman; Sister Helen Allen; Sister Cecil Easton present Pres.; The dues have changed through these years. The first years $1.20 a year, 1943 raised $1.50 a yr. 1950—$2.00 a year, now up to $2.25 a year.

We have held meetings in 3 different Halls, Hurt's upstairs rooms, E. Locust St. (2) moved to McDowells upstairs W. Locust St. Last meeting place at City Hall upstairs room, with 17 members enrolled up to date.

We have tried many ways to raise money for hospitals and child welfare. At first we made money by selling chances on a quilt and pillow slips made by an Auxiliary member. Selling Postal Cards for everyday and Christmas Cards. We tried Lunch Stands at Fair and Races, North of Fairbury, sometimes a good amount of money made, others poor. We made at our best $1000 one year, another 48 cents cleared when our bills were all paid up, but we had fun doing the work. We have had Stanley Parties, one bake sale, sold Household Hints books, all to make small amount of money to meet our bills. We

sell Buddy Poppies on Armistice Day to help our Veteran's in the Hospitals. We do relief work in child Welfare organization with money earned. The V.F.W. Auxiliary is a service organization of patriotic, historical and educational value.

Illinois Hotel Opening An Auspicious One

(Taken from issue March 3, 1911)

A large crowd present to enjoy the Spread and inspect the New Hostelry.

Tuesday evening the Illinois hotel, Fairbury's new hostelry, threw open its doors to the public, the opening being made the occasion for a banquet. It was an auspicious event and attended by over one hundred invited guests, and it is safe to say that none were present but enjoyed the occasion thoroughly.

The banquet was served in the beautiful dining room of the new structure, the tables being arranged in U-shaped. The decorations were carnations. The banquet was begun at 8:30 p.m. and when the guests were seated the interior presented a charming scene. The menu was as follows:

Raw oysters
Tomato Soup

Roast Beef Mashed Potatoes
Brown Gravy Green Peas
Bread and Butter
Salad

Baked Chicken Sweet Potatoes
Plum Pudding

Ice Cream Cake
Coffee

The menu was prepared under the direction of Mrs. Ritenour, wife of the proprietor, who will be the chef of the new hotel, and was served by waiters from Streator and Ottawa, who were brought here for the occasion.

At the completion of the banquet, Mine Host Ritenour called upon Judge C. F. H. Carrithers, who responded with an excellent speech, which he delivered in his best style. On behalf of Mr. Blivens, the owner of the building and Mr. Ritenour, the proprietor, he thanked those present for their presence at the dedicatory banquet and for the hearty good will and interest they had thus shown and also on behalf of the guests he thanked Mr. Blivens and Mr. and Mrs. Ritenour for the excellent entertainment given and for a very pleasurable evening. On leaving the dining hall the ladies were given a carnation as a

favor and the gentlemen a cigar.

Burch's four piece string orchestra rendered excellent music during the banquet.

A description of the interior of the new hotel and its furnishings has previously been published in the Blade. The exterior of the building will be completed this spring with the addition of a new lounging porch across the north front which will add greatly to the appearance of the building as well as to the comfort and convenience of the guests. The interior of the building is complete in every detail and there is probably not a hotel in the state that can boast of more conveniences than the new Illinois. Mr. Ritenour, the proprietor, is a pleasant and accommodating gentleman and it is safe to say that he will do all he possibly can to make his guests comfortable. Mrs. Ritenour is a chef of wide experience and her understanding of the culinary art will undoubtedly assist greatly in building up a large patronage for the new hostelry.

Mr. Blivens is to be congratulated for the successful termination of his work in building and equipping the new hotel and the people of Fairbury should, and we believe they will, help all they can to make it a success.

Board of Education At Halfway Mark

The Fairbury schools board of education in 1907 was composed of Chas. W. Neitz, president; Hugh Pence, clerk; and N. B. Claudon, W. J. Bethard, C. C. Hollenback, I. H. Shover and Heitt B. Taylor, members.

Junior Women's Club Growing Organization

The Fairbury Junior Women's club was organized by the Senior Women's club in the year of 1933. The Club when formed had a membership of nineteen members. The officers were — Ruth Tarpy Lawless, President; Edna Vail Elliott, Vice-President; Edith Schnetzler Kurth, Secretary; and Ida Bell Hagen Nelson, Treasurer. The Club Sponsors were Cecile Herzog and Marjorie Fulton.

The main project of the club is the Oxygen Tent Fund. There has been 5 adult tents and two childrens tents purchased over a period of years. The club is responsible for the maintenance of the tents. They also donate to various other organizations.

As the years passed the club has grown to a membership of fifty-five at the present time.

We, the present members of the club, extend our thanks to the Senior Women's Club for organizing our club. All members cooperate to make the club entertaining, interesting as well as a worthy club.

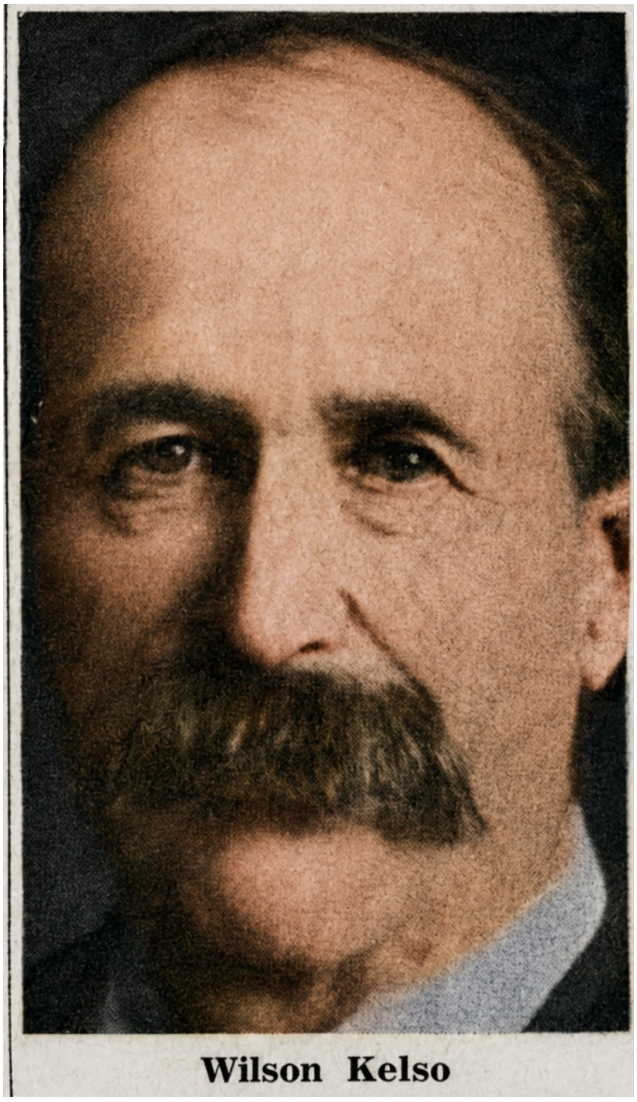
County Mine Inspector Position Lasted Exactly A Half-Century

The position of county mine inspector, abolished by the state last June, had a life of a half-century.

The job was created in January of 1907, when there were nine mines active within Livingston County. W. S. Davis, of Fairbury, was the first county mine inspector, drawing a salary of $3.00 per day on each day “he was working”.

The last county inspector was also a Fairburian, George Kerr. He drew a base pay of $60. a month.

At the time the job was abolished, there was but one mine active in the county, that being near Streator.



Wilson Kelso

Home Domestic Science Club —1950

City council, fireman, and other city officials posed by firetruck on July Fourth, 1924. Left to right on street they are, officer Baker, Andrew Hlayas, Ora Shanks, Andrew Bennett, city attorney Robert Henning, Joseph Gerber, Charles Smith, George Kerr, Perholz, Henry Paternoster, George Walker, Sam Demler, Ray Estep and Chris Obergfel.

Perched on truck are Conrad Munz, Roscoe Combs, John Darnell, Oscar Walls, Henry Ruster.

A group of Fairbury's finest gathered in front of where the Steidinger Service garage is now located one day in 1912. How many can you recognize?

Identifiable in this picture taken of the Phi Gams about 1913 are, No. 1, C. E. Gregg; 2, L. B. Decker; 3, R. C. Huntoon; 4, Carl Herzog; 5, Clarence H. Smith; 6, J. W. Walton, Jr.; 7, John Purdum; 8, Sam Bass; 9, Chester Claudon; 10, Rex Williams; 11, Clyde Shearer; 12, Louis Dirks; 13, Francis McDowell; 14, Perry Keck; 15, Dean Voorhees; 16, Will Braun.

Old Tax Receipts Show Land Values

Old tax receipts will give one a good idea of the value of land in this locality in an early day. One of the earliest such receipts to come to attention at this time is one which belonged to T. A. Beach, and which dates back 102 years, to 1855.

On 1,107 acres of land, located in McLean county, Mr. Beach in that year paid taxes to the amount of $38.84. The receipt was signed by John Purcille. One would naturally suppose that it would be easy to pay taxes in those days, but such was not the case.

Mr. Beach was once forced to sell land for $1.25 per acre so that he could meet the taxes. It was a matter of record that the land in 1903 was worth $135 per acre, and is no doubt worth three times that figure at the present.

Money was as scarce as hens' teeth near the time Fairbury was founded, and scarcely enough was raised on the land to support the farmer and pay the taxes.

On another piece of 280 acres located near Fairbury, Mr. Beach paid the sum of $17.21 in taxes, the receipt being signed by W. B. Lyons of Pontiac. In 1859 Cap Vincent was collector for the town of Indian Grove as Mr. Beach's receipts show and at that time his personal tax was a little over $3.00. In 1903 his personal property tax had risen to over $500 and his entire tax was something like $1,700.

Land near Fairbury in 1860 was left begging at a price of from $1.25 to $2.50 an acre.

Roy Taylor Elected Mayor Of Fairbury

taken from issue April 20, 1945

In a spirited election Tuesday Roy Taylor, candidate for mayor on the Independent ticket, was elected mayor over Shelby Wharton by the comfortable margin of 216 votes. Taylor carried every ward to roll up this majority, his majorities being 40 in the first, 94 in the second and 82 in the third. A total of 1,150 votes were cast.

In the first ward, Dewey DeMoss, Independent candidate for alderman, defeated Hartzell Cox, on the Citizen's ticket 199 to 128. The only other contest was in the second ward, where Clyde Sutter on the citizens ticket, and Eli Moser on the independent ticket, were candidates for alderman for the unexpired term of Shelby Wharton, who resigned to become a candidate for Mayor. Sutter won, receiving 260 votes to 213 for Moser.

Other candidates elected were unopposed. They were: C. R. Voris, for treasurer, and L. B. Decker, for city clerk, both on the independent ticket; J. G. Drennen, for four-year term as alderman in the second ward, Citizens ticket, and Herbert Rathbun, alderman, for a full term on the Independent ticket in the third ward.

A total of 1,150 votes were cast out of which four were spoiled. In the first ward 344 votes were cast of which 154 were straight Independent, and 77 straight Citizens. In the second ward two of the 508 voters who went to the polls spoiled their ballots. Here 148 voted the Independent ticket straight, and an even 100 voted the straight Citizens ticket. One hundred sixty scratched their ticket to vote for Clyde

Sutter, the Citizens ticket candidate for alderman, and 65 split their ticket to vote for Mr. Moser, Independent candidate for alderman. In the third ward 298 went to the polls and two spoiled their ballots. There were 163 straight Independent tickets voted and 53 straight Citizens.

A total of 99 absentee ballots were issued by City Clerk Decker, three of these being voided and the parties to whom they were issued voted in person.

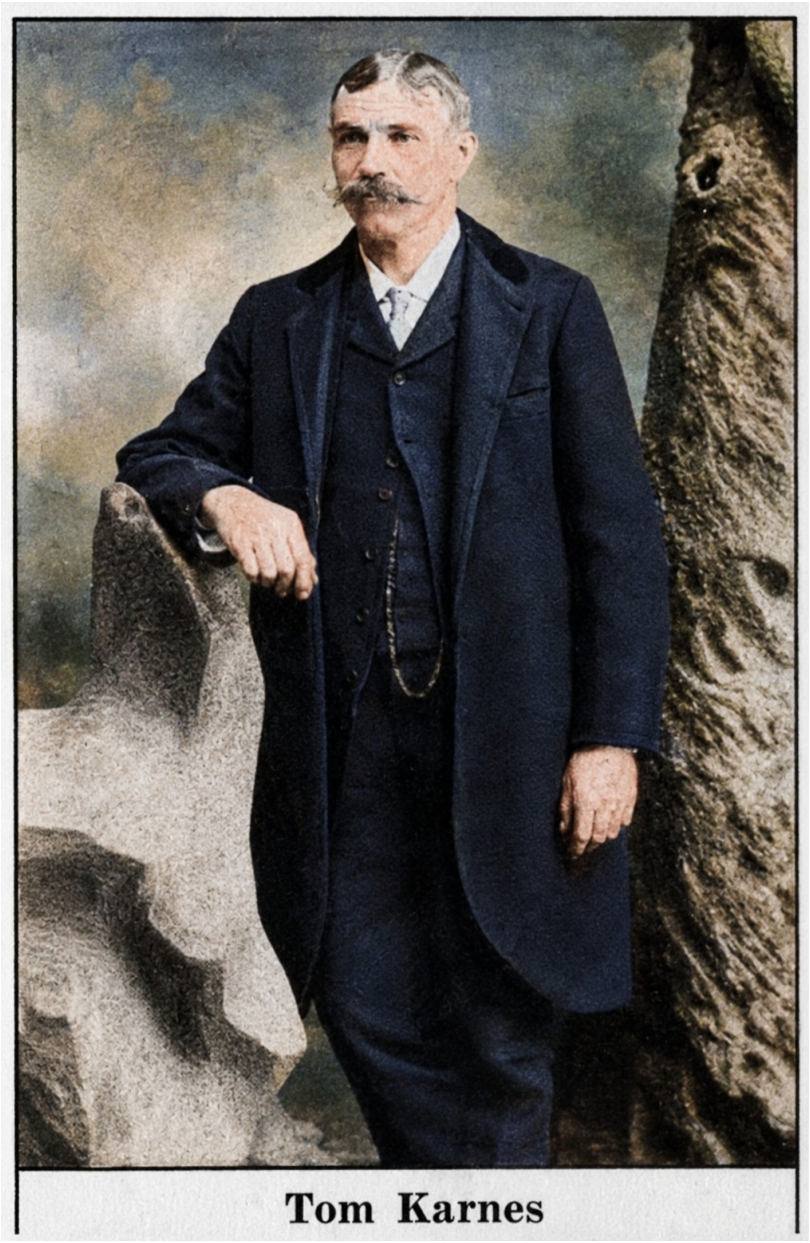
While the 1,150 votes recorded on Tuesday was large, there have been several times when larger votes were cast at city elections. In 1941 when Mayor Klopfenstein defeated Marshall Gordon 602 to 555, a total of 1,175 votes were cast. In 1939 the city cast its largest vote, a total of 1,323 votes being cast. At that election there was a proposition up effecting the "wet and dry" status of the city, as well as a sewage bond proposition.

ton.

Following is a tabulated vote of Tuesday's election:

	1st	2nd	3rd	Ttl
For Mayor—				
Taylor, I	192	298	189	679
Wharton, C.	152	204	107	463
Taylor's majority				216
For Treasurer—				
Voris, I	228	316	209	753
For city Clerk—				
Decker, I.	241	336	228	805
For Aldermen—				
DeMoss, I	195			
Cox,C	128			
Drennen, C. (4-yr. term)		234		
Sutter, C. (unex, term)		260		
Moser, I (unex. term)		213		
Rathbun, I.			213	

DeMoss majority 67; Sutter majority 47. Vote cast by wards: First, 344, second, 508, 298.



Tom Karnes

LACC members posed for picture at home of Mrs. Stella Tavener in 1926. Left to right, they are, front row, Anna Tucker, Anna Menton, Nettie Ziegenhorn and son Johnny, Nell Sparks, Margaret Ruff holding Lois Ruff, and Orel Ruff standing by her.

Second row: Betty Callaby, Nellia Morrison, Mallie Bentley.

Third row: Lorine Wink, Sena Fortna, Phoebe Sparks and Dean. Fourth row: Bertha Scherr Bowker, unidentified, Gertrude Ziller, Nola Ellinger, Stella Tavener, Rose Morrison. The two children on the left are Mary Ellen Wink Goold and Charles Scherr.

This group of school teachers was among those which taught in Fairbury schools in the 1890's. In the top row are the Misses Haousworth, Heitzman, Phillips and Hempstead. The first three in the second row are Miss Wade, Miss Mallony and Supt. J. E. Bangs.

None in the third row were identified, but in the bottom row are the Misses Gore, Evans, Bennet and Carmen.

Autos Finished Passenger Trains Here

(Taken from issue November 12, 1937)

The T. P. & W. was purchased by its present owner, Mr. McNear at auction on June 11, 1926. Automobiles had practically eliminated passenger traffic on the road, and in the latter part of 1927 the passenger trains were taken off. However, the freight trains continued to carry a passenger car until 1931, when the passenger car was eliminated.

The Wabash discontinued passenger trains on the Streator branch Jan. 31, 1929. On June 1, 1932, the station here was vacated and the telegraph instruments installed in the freight depot. The passenger station was sold to John Bolliger in December, 1933, and torn down in May of the following year.

New Hotel Nearly Completed

taken from issue Jan. 27, 1911

“Will be one of the best in this section of the state”

C. J. Bliven’s new hotel, located at the south-west corner of Locust and Second Streets, is rapidly nearing completion and when completed it is going to be one of the best equipped hostelries in this section of the state.

The building is a three-story structure, substantially built of cement blocks. The lower floor will be devoted to the office, dining room, kitchen, sample rooms, and lavatories. The second and third stories will be the guests rooms, there being 25 sleeping rooms on the two floors. On the second floor there is also a ladies’ parlor and ample well equipped writing rooms.

An elevator will carry the guests up and down and it is only one of the many conveniences. In each room there will be hot and cold water, telephone and electric lights. On the two upper floors there will be bath and toilet rooms, linen rooms, etc. There will also be a check room in the office for the accommodation of the guests. Every room in the house is an outside room and all are well lighted. The building is heated by steam and the plant has been thoroughly tested during the cold weather this winter and found more than ample to keep the temperature of every room in the building up to summer heat and above if necessary. The steam for heating the building is furnished by the Electric Light, Heat & Power Co., and there is no danger of a change in temperature of the heat night or day.

The equipment of the building will be the best and every sleeping room will contain furniture and bed as good as can be found anywhere in the interior hotels in the state.

An extra large force of workmen, carpenters, painters and decorators are now engaged in putting the finishing touches on the interior of the building and it will be ready for occupancy about Feb. 15.

The exterior of the building is not yet completed as Mr. Blivens intends to build a large veranda on the front or north side. The upper part of the veranda will be designed to be used by the guests in the summer for a lounging place.

The hotel has been leased to Mr. Whittenhour of Streator, a practical hotel man with an excellent reputation in the hotel business, and there is no doubt but that he will give his patrons the best service possible. Mr. Blivens, the proprietor of and builder of the hotel deserves a great deal of credit for his enterprise and perseverance. He has completed and equipped a building that would be a credit to any city, and done so under adverse circumstances. The people of Fairbury should assist him all they can in making it a success.

Buckle on the Corn Belt

Transcription Note: This history story by Alma Lewis James was published in the Blade several years before this 1958 Centennial Issue. The Blade Editor said that because it was so popular, they were reprinting it again as part of the Centernnial edition.

This article was later published in booklet form. This booklet has been fully transcribed and digital copies are stored on Archive.Org both in PDF and TXT file versions. The article will be published below so this document contains every piece of history information that was in the April 3, 1958 Centennial Edition of the Blade.

Buckle on the Corn Belt

INSTALLMENT NO. 1

In the period immediately following the Civil War the village of Fairbury, Illinois, held the dubious distinction of being one place where no Company would insure any property.
The town was riddled by factions. The citizenry took sides on every conceivable subject. Not only did the partisanship of the War still flame, but the saloon crowd was against the drys; the townspeople against the farmers and the railroad men; the Republicans against the Democrats; Catholics against Protestants. The latter were themselves divided into Methodists, Presbyterians and "Hardshell Baptists", and each of them were prepared to instantly defend their differences of creed against outsiders. But the feud that completely split the town, regardless of sex, age, religion or political belief, stemmed from a private quarrel between two brothers-in-law, and progressed to the point where the whole of Fairbury was involved, and each faction earnestly tried to burn down the town.
In sober fact, Fairbury, almost from its inception, was founded in feud.

OUT OF THE SWAMPS.

Caleb Patton owned a farm where the east part of Fairbury now stands. It was out in the middle of nowhere in the swamps of the prairie. The grass grew taller than a horse's back, and mud was thick and deep. Wheat for the scanty sprinkling of settlers was ground into flour at Ottawa; their grain had to be hauled to Chicago to be sold, and for some time their mail, if any, could be called for at Bloomington. Anything faintly resembling a settlement was at Avoca, on the banks of the Vermilion River, five miles north.

When Patton heard that the builders of the new Peoria and Oquawka railroad (later to become the Toledo, Peoria and Warsaw,) were headed in his direction, he hunted up the Chief Construction Engineer, Octave Chanute, and made him a little dicker; if Chanute would influence the stockholders in

his railroad to run the line through Patton's farm, he would give him half of the town. Chanute agreed, and swung his end of the deal. Patton happily laid his farm out into plots, presenting four to his Baptist Church, and another suitable space to the railroad for a depot; and then, for some obscure but hopeful reason, he named that chunk of wilderness "Fairbury".

DEATH OF AVOCA.

The response to his invitation to buy lots was immediate. The inhabitants of Avoca foresaw their death sentence in having been by-passed, and began hauling away their houses on wagons to the new site before the tracks reached there.

They made a very small cluster of houses, but it was a cluster, just the same, what with new ones a-building, and there was a city limits to the thing. So, in a short time when Chanute's construction gang reached there, he was met by a delegation of Founding Fathers who informed him that they had passed an ordinance whereby no railroad tracks were to go through the town. Instead, it would be nice if they went around.

Now Chanute was operating on a shoestring, for it was not until railroads had pushed farther west and proved their worth that the Capitalists became more generous with their money. He had skimped on every inch of track, and a couple of unexpected miles more of it, together with a new right of way to be bought, amounted to calamity.

Also, he was accountable to his stockholders. They had permitted him to enter into this agreement, and Patton had further shown them his good will by his donation of the depot site; and now the inhabitants of this minuscule hamlet of which he owned one half, were bent on making a monkey out of him. The early railroads were not built by weaklings, and Octave Chanute was true to the breed, but every time he tried to enforce his agreement with Patton and stuck a rail across the town line, he encountered a delegation of armed guards. They stayed right there, too, with their shotguns handy, while one their citizens jumped on his horse and rode hell-for-leather to Pontiac, which had recently graduated from a saw mill to the county seat, to get an injunction.

MONEY SQUANDERED.

While Chanute's rage at the situation is completely understandable, the mental processes of the townspeople are only slightly less clear, for the lunatic appropriations of the first Illinois legislature in behalf of the railroads had beggared the state and its settlers for twenty long years and the money squandered had come to nothing.

Furthermore, a number of the citizens were Easterners, and they had brought with them the ideas popular at the time, which were much encouraged by the stage and canal barge lines, that the reckless speed of those infernal machines were a menace to life and limb. Anyway, they reasoned, what would keep the engines from leaping the tracks and running wild, and endanger the innocent children and the livestock? (In truth, the enormous "cow catchers" on the old locomotives were just that.)

Added to all this, was the fact that at least one of their number had suffered a financial trimming at the hands of the railroad back East. A physician of high professional standing had used his influence among his friends and patients, ad-vising them to invest extensively along what he was positive was going to be the right-of-way, but when the railroad took another route altogether, and the wishful

speculators were left with only some dubious farm land, the good doctor decided that the climate farther west would be beneficial.

This man was also undoubtedly one reason why not a single share of the Peoria and Oquawka Railroad stock was ever sold in Fairbury, although the citizens did scrape up enough funds, finally, to build themselves a depot. They had to put the thing on stilts to get it out of the mud.

WORK IN DARKNESS.

In the face of this sort of public opinion, Chanute was clever. He did not use force but quietly laid his rails at the western edge, and worked straight on until Saturday night. In the darkness, and secretly, he moved his crews back; and then in the morning, at first dawn, and reinforced by armed guards of his own, he was ready for business. To the consternation of the dumbfounded and helpless villagers, he rushed the track straight through the town and ran a locomotive over it to make it legal, for it was Sunday, and the courthouse was closed. By Monday morning, he was well on his way to Peoria. Chanute finished his railroad that year, and lived to enjoy years of wealth. Later he further proved his prophetic wisdom in new fangled ideas by becoming one of the backers of the Wright Brothers. Chanute Air Field at Rantoul, Illinois was named for him.

Thus it was that Progress gave the dwellers of Fairbury a boost in spite of themselves, and under that impetus, during the first winter, they built themselves a grain elevator and a general store. When spring came a dry goods store started competition. A small hotel followed, then two boarding houses, grocery store, wagon making and repair shop, tavern, lumber yard and Methodist church.

AIDED BY MINING, FAIRBURY GROWS DESPITE DISUNITY

It was the next year, 1858, that John Marsh bought eighty acres of land joining Patton's on the west, and had it surveyed for an addition to the town. He next caused much excitement by going against mining tradition to bore for coal in the open prairie, but he discovered a substantial vein of good quality. It brought real prosperity, for it gave the settlers a cheap fuel and supplied the railroad as well. Heretofore their engines had burned wood cut from the forests, and the supply was fast vanishing. The mines caused other railroad business to come to Fairbury too, and the merchants were glad to get it until they discovered that it was hard to collect payment. After pressing matters legally, they attached everything possible belonging to the poverty ridden railroad, even going so far as to garnishee freight bills before they were collected, and finally forced it into bankruptcy.

RAILROAD VS. TOWN

The railroad men cherished their grievances, got drunk, and did everything possible to annoy the people. These considered it simple justice when they retaliated, and for ten years both factions pestered the other in every way imaginable until that freight train went through town.

For this occasion the engineer had it fired up heavily before reaching the settlement, and it whizzed through, belching enormous black clouds of smoke and live cinders. It had been a hot dry fall, and the wind was blowing, and the sparks that fell on the East End Elevator burst into ready flames.

When the engineer reached Forrest, his next stop, six miles away, he looked back at the pall of smoke over Fairbury and remarked with satisfaction that he had set the whole damn town on fire.

As a matter of fact, he very nearly had. The business section of East Fairbury was wiped out, and a number of homes went with it.

The stores began rebuilding at once, and suits against the railroad were started. They were pending in the courts for six years, but were never settled.

It took much less time, in fact the ashes from the fire were still warm when the West Enders, as the residents of the Marsh Addition were called, made the interesting discovery that all the cut throat competition with the East End stores had been eliminated, and they piously considered it an Act of God.

GROWTH OF "MARSH TOWN."

This was a time of general prosperity. In addition to the income from the coal mines, the soldiers returning from the Civil War were opening up new farms all around Fairbury. Most of the land was marshy, and so a new tile factory was started to help drain it. It was all experimental, and most of the farmers were exceedingly skeptical about going against nature in such a high handed fashion, and so when the next drought beset them, some dug it all out again.

Yet with all their indecision, crops were growing, being harvested, and hauled into town to sell, and Marsh set about to capture the business in a big way. He bought three hundred acres adjoining his original tract, and he set out to make everybody else look like pikers.

His part of town he located around two squares. One was donated to the city for re-creation purposes, and it was to be called Marsh Park. He considered the lots around this to be choicer, and they were correspondingly higher priced, in spite of the fact that the park was under water every time it sprinkled. The Catholic Church located not far north of this.

The other park he named Livingston Square, and it was to be the market place. The water tower stands there now. On the south side of this he built his Arcade Block, a series of one story red brick buildings, simple and beautiful in design, with fan lights above the doors, and large show windows. These buildings housed two saddle and harness shops, a gun and sporting goods store, a poultry house, a drug store, and the Fairbury Marble works that made the monuments for the local cemetery. Later on they had a bed-spring factory there.

With bait like this, he persuaded the McDowells to build on the north side of Livingston Square. The McDowell Block housed their dry-goods and hardware stores and bank. The second story which formed one large room they named McDowell Hall, and declared it available for re-creation purposes.

HOTEL CROWNING GLORY

Furthermore, Marsh captured the post office for his town. That was on the east side of Livingston Square, in the back of Ramsey's drug store. A restaurant opened next door to it, on the Main Street corner, with Walton's grist mill across the street.

Finally, in 1866 Marsh crowned the whole of his achievements by building the Livingston Hotel. It was a large two-story frame building in "Central Park" bordering the railroad tracks, and a part of the lower

floor was used as a depot and waiting room for travelers. It was known far and wide as the only hotel in Central Illinois that had running water.

All this construction work made the modest re-building over in the East End seem like very small potatoes. Patton had sold out his real estate holdings and had gone to Nebraska to found an-other Fairbury there, and now it was Bruce Ams-bary7 who had married a sister of John Marsh's wife, who was the leading citizen. He owned a part interest in a grocery store there.

Whatever started that famous feud is now for-ever lost. It must have been a trivial matter, or it surely would have been remembered, but under Amsbary's driving ambition, the East Enders went to work to match John Marsh, item for item. Marsh had a grist mill, and so they had one. Ditto the dry goods, drug and grocery stores, and the grain elevators. The even decided to have a coal mine, too. Amsbary had to solicit Eastern Capital for this and he imported a group of Scotch miners who did the boring for him.

TEMPLE OF "FREE THOUGHT."

These people gave an unexpected twist to the life of the community, for they were well educated and brilliant, but they scandalized the rest of the town, because they were "Infidels" or "Free Thinkers." They were headed by Amsbary himself, and were a potent force. Their hall (the present building of the Sanitary Cleaners), when they took up a subscription to match the McDowell Hall, was dedicated to "Free Thought", and in the center of the arch over the stage it bore the date of "94" instead of 1871 A.D. They reasoned it was 94 years after the signing of the Declaration of In-dependence. The address of dedication was given by Robert Ingersoll, the well-known Peoria lawyer and agnostic. The society had no chairs for their audience, but the people ranged themselves on planks placed upon nail kegs. The place was jam-med to the doors, and another crowd stood outside.

Ingersoll spoke there several other times, and then he was challenged to a debate by Reverend Underwood, the President of Eureka College. Fair-bury was chosen as their meeting place, and the townspeople put up a big Tabernacle – on the East side of course - as there was no place in town big enough to hold the crowd. Thousands of people came to hear them, and both men outdid themselves in oratory. Both of them claimed the decision.

Now the East Enders may have been rubbing their hands with satisfaction over the building boom which had drawn them even with the West Siders, but their pleasure suddenly ceased with the arrival of a new railroad, the Chicago and Paducah at the western boundary of the town.

However badly the Peoria and Oquawka had been treated, there was no doubt at all now about the people wanting the Chicago and Paducah road. It was to run from Strawn to Streator, and promised to open up an entirely new territory. To the stupefaction of the Amsbary adherents, they dis-covered that Marsh had secretly used his influence to such effect that the new line was to come just within the city limits on his side of town, and then turn straight south toward Strawn.

The construction gang reached the boundary on Saturday night. The president of the road was on hand, and Marsh and all his friends went up to McDowell Hall where they had quite a party. The hangovers must have been terrific, because early next morning Amsbary and his friends slipped across into enemy territory and laid the rails straight across town, where they were willing that they should then make the turn toward Strawn. They were not able to get hold of a locomotive to run over them until the next day, but the rails stayed down anyway.

To celebrate his victory, Amsbary built. the Fairbury House, and mindful of the lush advertising of the elegant Livingston Hotel, with tongue in cheek, he called his the "Poorest Hotel in Illinois."

Like its rival, the Fairbury House used ‘its ground floor for a ticket office and waiting room, bringing the number of depots in the hamlet to the magnificent total of three.

GANG WARFARE BREAKS OUT IN EARLY FAIRBURY

Any improvement, East or West, and of any sort whatever, was accompanied by bitter arguments, and the arguments were followed by fights. The town had already earned the "worst name" of any in this section of the country. One main reason was that there were so many rough miners, the three mines having become big industry. Because of them, all the _ stores and shops stayed open until ten o'clock at night, and all eight of the saloons stayed open with them.

TOWN DIVIDED

Every night there were at least three or ‘four rip-roaring, ding-dong bloody fights in which the battlers did their best to tear each other to bits, and they seized on every possible pretext for arguments. Every fight piled fresh fuel on the hatred between the two sections of the town. Not one person was untouched. Even the little boys went to war. The dividing line was Second street, and heaven help the adventurous gamin who dared step over it without plenty of friends and ammunition by way of clods and stones to back him up.

The little West Enders finally conquered the territory over to Seventh street, which crowded the other fellows considerably, but the school house was strictly neutral territory after one big fight had started on the play-ground. Smith Olney, their teacher, might be considered some-thing of a "Miss Nancy" because of his prissy manners and precious pronunciation, but his right arm was nevertheless a vigorous one. He settled their differences in short order by whipping every last one of the boys, and from then on, THAT was THAT.

FAIRBURY BURNS – AGAIN

Thus it was the deadly rivalry between the partisans of Amsbary and Marsh was running high, when the fires started to break out again.

There had already been three extremely disastrous fires only a few months apart, and all three had been proven to be of incendiary origin.

With the first one alone, a whole block of ten wooden business buildings and their contents burned to the ground; seven more with the next; and the third fire took four of the new brick buildings that they had erected after the TP&W locomotive blaze. Still another burned the next time and that was not counting the Amsbary and Jones grain elevator.

This had the East End business district pretty well cleaned out, and so, to the public, it seemed anything but accidental when someone poured kerosene over the piled benches and chairs in McDowell Hall and set fire to them. It was discovered and extinguished however, before much damage was done.

Now these, mind you, were only the spectacular blazes downtown. Added to this was the horrible fact that every few nights someone's home was burned.

The people who remember the old fire bell testify that, quite aside from its sinister meaning, the tone of it was so deep and menacing that it made one's hair stand straight on end. Nobody ever went to bed without carefully arranging his clothes at hand so that they could be put on the instant it began to ring, because EVERY-BODY went to ALL the fires.

Everybody pitched in and helped, even the children, because one never knew when one might need help himself.

ATTEMPTS AT FIRE FIGHTING.

The men and older boys took turns with the pumps of the fire engine, or if it had been delayed getting through the muddy streets, they formed a human chain to pass the buckets of water to the others inside the burning building or on the roof. They carried out furniture and res-cued livestock. The women helped fill and carry water buckets, and salvage articles rescued from the fire. They put these at a safe distance from the flames, and the little girls patiently sat on the piles to keep them from being stolen. It was a desperate time, and men passed each other on the streets and met in the few remaining places of business, each eyeing the others, and secretly wondering.

One lighter incident in all that trouble was a young man whose landlady accused him of at-tempting to set fire to her house, where he lived. He was arrested and brought to trial, and things looked black for him. He was engaged to marry a lawyer's daughter, and she used her influence to get her father to defend him.

The fire in question had started from kerosene in the basement, and drops of it had been discovered along the stairs. The landlady claim-ed that he bought it for the purpose of setting the fire, but he swore under oath that he had only gone down to fill some lamps, and had spilled a little on the way back. When the trial opened, his lawyer, in his most majestic manner, focused the whole defense into the question of whether those spots legitimately went UP the stairs, or whether the spots went DOWN the stairs for incendiary purposes; and before they realized it, the jury were completely befuddled. They disagreed and the young man was acquitted.

It was no wonder that the townspeople were so jittery, for they had no fire protection off Main Street. When the alarm rang, the notes striking, as now, the number of the ward, the firemen would' rush to the horse cart. If the blaze was at a distance, they would seize the first team of horses at hand and gallop to the fire. When they arrived at the conflagration, they would rip off the top of the household well, stick down the end of their hose, and begin to pump.

"ONE STORY" FIRE CART

Their hose cart had two wheels about five feet high and six feet apart. The pump was on the shaft between the wheels, and the hose wound over it. The pump was a "two-way" affair, it pumped when it went down, and the water spurt-ed again as it came back up. The handles, which were removable, were laid along the shaft for transportation. The firemen, six on a side, took turns working the thing, but even their best efforts threw a stream of water less than fifty feet, and it could not reach the second story of a

building. Often it turned to steam before it ever hit the blaze, but if the firemen were busy they felt that they were at least trying to save things. Then the firemen had to just stand, with the frantic property owner, and simply watch things go up in smoke.

Down on Main Street, the Villagers had what they, at first, considered to be the finest of fire protection, not having anticipated their disasters as coming wholesale.

It was a system of five wooden cisterns, one for each block, and each held 240 barrels of water. They were connected by pipes, so that, as they pumped from one, the water went down in all of them. Moreover, there was a well at each end of Main Street, and another in Livingston Square, but when half of down town was ablaze at once and everything had pumped dry, it was just too bad, taxpayers or no taxpayers.

ALARMED CITIZENS CALL HALT TO CITY'S ROWDYISM

Already by this time, Fairbury had earned its reputation of having more disastrous fires than any other town in the Middle West, but more were yet to come. A grist mill that Amsbury had leased went, together with still more stores; and Amsbary, whose finances were by now truly desperate, became specific in his accusations that Marsh had instigated the setting of the fires.
Each faction had a newspaper, among their other properties, each strongly partisan, naturally. Then, even more than now, it was the custom to write letters to the editors giving opinions and voicing grievances, and Amsbary cut loose in print. Marsh had no choice but to reply, even if he had wished to do other-wise, and letter retorted to letter, each one more virulent than the last.

The climax of the whole affair came with the burning of the pride of Fairbury, the elegant Livingston Hotel. The boys remembered this fire because the firemen, in their excitement, carefully carried the feather-beds downstairs and then threw the bedroom crockery out the windows.

CITIZENS REBUKE LEADERS.

After this, the vituperation in the news-papers reached a new pitch. Both men specifically accused the other of arson and both at-tempted to get indictments before the Grand Jury, and at the same time they started suits for alleged slander. At last the citizens of both sides of town became utterly revolted by the display of bitter feeling. They called a joint mass meeting and the Resolutions that they passed were a blistering rebuke.

"Resolved that such deeds are a blight upon our city and an infamous strain upon the characters of the perpetrators, instead of those who would so defame: that we regard with horror and astonishment the actions of men, prostituting their official position to carry out personal spite against their fellow citizens at public expense; that we are utterly opposed to such persons, and believe such attempts to be the ‘result of vindictive personal feelings generated by an old feud on the part of their enemies in the hope to shield themselves from damages in certain suits now pending against them in the courts."

The Amsbarys and the Marshes, ruined by the fires and by litigation, moved away. Outwardly, at least, the town had got together, but the pains of the financial beating they had, lingered until 1890, when the McDowells razed their building on Livingston Square and built anew on Main Street. With that act, the old quarrel was really dead.

In contrast to their elders, however, the end of the war between the boys came almost at once, was abrupt, and complete. The cause of it was a circus. Circuses were pitifully few, anyway, and each one was a major event. They all came into town from the north in wagons and the youths of the village rode all the way out to the DeMoss bridge to meet and escort them into town.

TOGETHER IN COMMON CAUSE.

This one had animals with it, which was practically unheard of, and every boy who could earn, beg, borrow or steal the price of admission was there to get a good look at them, even though the tent was pitched in the middle of Livingston Square. During the performance, the company put on an act that was so vulgar that even the unaesthetic audience objected. Nobody ever really knew how the fight started, but of course, the McDowell boys got the credit.

All at once that old circus battle cry, "Hey, Rube!" went up, and those seasoned circus roustabouts grabbed the thing nearest at hand. From then on it was entirely immaterial whether a boy lived on the East Side of Fairbury or whether he lived on the West Side of Fairbury. The fight was wonderful.

During the fray, the old animosities disappeared under the urgency of keeping their necks: from getting broken. After it was all over, the doctors had considerable patching to do, and it was said that one of the McDowell boys spent the next four days in bed.

When they were all able to be up and about again, they made the interesting discovery that for them, if not completely so for their elders, the Great Feud was finished.

UNITED FAIRBURY LIFTS ITSELF OUT OF THE MUD

The wonder of it was, with all the embittered factions, that Fairbury was able to make any progress at all. Yet progress it did. By the 1880 census there had been 269 inhabitants and enough children to start a school in a reconverted building. Everything, however, came to a stand-still during the Civil War. The town sent its share of men: into the army where they served with credit, leaving wheat to wave over Patton's lot.

Even to soldiers returning to their new town, it must have seemed unprepossessing, A little handful of frame houses appeared to have been flung down at random. Only four were in the northwest part of town. There was not a tree anywhere, save in the timber belt along Indian Creek. There were no lawns, no flowers, only the prairie grass and the weeds, with wagon tracks or a path here and there. A few of the more ambitious house-holders had little cinder paths to their door-ways, and boards across the worst of the puddles.

WANDERING INDIANS.

At night the town remained in unbroken blackness save for the faint candle gleam from a neighbor's far-off window, and families going out for the evening took a lantern with them. Women did not often venture out alone after dark; there were too many drunks.

Sometimes, even yet, a wandering Indian would startle farm women by peering in the windows, for this was still home to them although they had been dispossessed after the Black Hawk War. The

one faint rise in the swamp land had been used by the Kickapoo as a camp site, and the soil around there was thick with arrow heads and other relics. (The location was around the Sunken Park and Amish Church.) This was obliterated when the railroads hauled.in dirt on flat cars, and filled it in four feet deep.

Yet the inhabitants were convinced that the place had possibilities. The very first thing they were able to get together on was their water supply to fight the down-town fires. The system had its drawbacks, however, and it became one of the duties of the Mayor to listen to the complaints about the wind-mill that filled it. On breathless summer days when everything was as dry as tinder and the city cisterns were empty, the harassed business men, who had learned from experience what to expect by way of fires, would gather to jaw at the motionless wheel and all the members of the Village Board. In winter they fretted lest the connecting pipes, buried twenty feet underground, would freeze and render the whole system useless.

STREETS DISAPPEAR.

There was real irony in the fact that the City Fathers found it necessary to be concerned with the cisterns when there was an over-supply of water on the surface of the ground. The town was built on marshy land, and every time it rained the streets simply disappeared. Always, somewhere, there was mud. Mud. Heavy, rich, black Illinois mud that was to grow such bountiful crops. Mud where, in the spring, horses floundered belly deep. Mud of the trails that summer dried into spine-busting ruts.

The gravel they tried on the streets at first promptly sank out of sight with the first spring rains. Slack hauled from the mines proved only a trifle more effective. Every able bodied man in town over twenty-one years of age either paid an annual poll tax of two dollars to the city treasury or labored on village improvements, but it was a physical impossibility for them to build up all the streets, so, into the Mayor's suffering ears were poured the complaints. Each citizen argued that he was paying his hard-earned cash for taxes, and therefore he was just as much entitled as the other fellow to have his mud hole filled.

They were not even particularly grateful, now that it was done, that the Uncle John Kring Lane (the road north on Seventh street), had been fixed to at least be passable. That was the road to Avoca, the people out in that direction had preferred to go all the way to Pontiac rather than drive the much shorter distance to Fairbury and then bog down inside the very town itself. Four-horse teams pulled empty wagons stuck fast along there, and it had taken rocks to fill it.

SWIM IN DITCHES.

Finally, the Village Board came to the conclusion that the only way they ever could make the town site livable would be to dig ditches and drain it. Just one of those ditches cost the taxpayers ten thousand dollars. This, mind you, was during a time when a copper penny had purchasing power in any store.

The ditches, running along one side of the street, were so deep that little boys went swimming in them in the summer time. They were also a major hazard. More than one citizen, wrestling with a team in the throes of a runaway, was flung headlong into one; but he considered himself most fortunate if he did not have to get the horses and wagon, as well as himself out of the steep and muddy banks.

There were bridges across the ditches, both for vehicles and pedestrians, and willow trees grew thick

along their banks. They were beautiful and graceful, but their roots, greedily reaching out for moisture, matted so firmly as to impede the current, and held back any refuse that had fallen into it. During the hot weather this stagnant water was covered with a thick scum, another haven for mosquitoes, and the ditches became so befouled that they had to be cleaned periodically, and the refuse hauled away. Four hundred wagon loads of filth were taken out of them during one spring alone.

Although they proved effective drainage for the flooded cellars, it was a little awkward for the home owners who were thus cut off from the street; and so, at intervals over the ditches, there appeared a variation of the "stepping block."

These were called "run ups," and they were inclined foot bridges over the ditch. The high end was on the street side, so that the ladies might mount to their carriages with propriety, since they were allowed by custom to display a shoe to advantage, but never any portion of the black cotton stocking above it. Careful attention was necessary, or a girl easily earned the name of being "fast."

THE FIRST WALKS.

Once the streets had been drained and dried, it was possible to fix the chuck holes so that they would stay filled. And then, after that, the City Planners were ready for the sidewalks. These board walks became a special point of civic pride, as the newspapers themselves were proud to note. After the mud and the cinder paths, they seemed wonderful, and it was no small additional satisfaction to them that the thirty miles of walks throughout Fairbury were far more than the neighboring town of Pontiac enjoyed.

To construct them, two narrow boards were placed on edge to raise the walk above the ground, and then equal lengths of wider boards were nailed across them. This naturally divided the walk into sections, and annually, at Halloween time, whole lengths disappeared from their accustomed places.

Also their being made of wood caused them to be correspondingly fragile. A runaway horse, hitting them sent the splinters flying; and the Blade called attention to the numerous cows throughout the town that had been tethered too close to the walks, crushing them and covering them with blobs of manure.

Conceivably, their owners intended them as weed mowers, for the tough grass and weeds hung thick over the walks. The wild sweet clover was particularly disliked, in spite of its perfume, because of its special ability to catch the ladies skirts.

There were one or two other minor disadvantages about the walks. In the winter time they creaked so noisily beneath their coating of snow that anyone entertaining any notions of being clandestine must have been abashed. Footsteps, during sub-zero weather, sounded like a series of pistol shots. Hot weather, on the other hand, caused the knot holes to ooze resin. These grew in size and hardened into big bumps, causing curious oddities in gait even in the cold sober. According to the town wits, it was impossible to tell, from appearance, if even a Deacon of the church was not "three sheets in the wind."

It was a very special point of town pride that these walks were always kept in good repair. The City Street Commissioner, carrying a bucket of nails and a hammer, patrolled the walks, fastening down loose boards and replacing broken ones. The repair bill for only one year was over $2,000.00; but whenever the Village Board showed signs of becoming frugal and skimping on that part of the budget, there was always someone to remind them of the time Mrs. Rogers tripped and fell, breaking ‘her leg. She sued the city and got $1,500 damages, thereafter proving to be no small impetus to civic progress. -

VARIOUS ODORS, SULFUR WATER, PLAGUE GROWTH

Fairbury made more improvements downtown, too. There the walks had been built high off the ground to get them out of the mud. This facilitated descent from the carriages, and unexpectedly provided a convenient hiding place beneath them for little boys. Once a skunk was cornered under there for several days, and created a divertissement.

At the end of each block the walks sloped down to the street crossings on planks placed lengthwise. The crossings themselves were long blocks of stone, six or eight inches high, and vehicles always jolted as they went over them. since Main Street was churned hub deep most of the time, every wheel was a solid disk of mud. When they went over the stone crossings, the jar always knocked the mud out of the spokes. Often times the chunks left there weighed seven or eight pounds and these had to be dug off every day. While he was downtown, the Street Commissioner was almost never seen without a shovel across his shoulders.

NEW BUSINESS SECTION.

Everyone preferred this thicker form of mud, for when the rains were heavy it would be thin, and splashed all over the walks and everything within reach. By springtime, with all the manure droppings, the odor therefrom became terrific, but nothing could be done until dry weather came and it could be shoveled up and carted off in wagons.

The business houses of the town, too, were much improved. Livingston Square had shops on three sides of it and was open on the west. There were hitching racks around it in front of the stores, and a windmill stood in the middle to keep the horse troughs filled.

The remainder of the stores straggled along the north side of the five blocks that comprised the Main Street. For the most part they were one story wooden buildings with false fronts, a house or two among them, and a few brick buildings.

Each business place had a wooden awning over the walk in front of it that was supported by poles edging the street. This gave nearly complete coverage from one end of the district to the other in case of rain. There was an ordinance prohibiting the use of these poles as hitching posts, but every once in a while somebody would forget, and a startled team would yank out a pole, down would come a section of awning to cause a few casualties among the pedestrians and loafers. The latter were especially thick along there on Sundays, when they would gather to whittle up the wooden boxes thrown out from the stores.

Nevertheless, however proudly a citizen of Fairbury might point to the north side of Main Street, he invariably squirmed with embarrassment when a stranger turned around in the opposite direction and audibly wondered what ailed the place.

As before stated, the ground around the railroad tracks was low. It was so low that it was under water most of the time, and they called that pitiful pond the Commons. It was shunned for building purposes because, even on the North side of the street, which was a trifle higher, flooded cellars were too ordinary for comment.

Midway, and adjoining the tracks, sprawled the lumber yard. A grist mill stood down at the west end and a grain elevator at the east. There were a few hitching racks, intended to take care of the overflow of carriages and wagons in front of the stores; and, as if the place was not wet enough to begin with there was a well and iron watering trough in every block. Each pump had an iron cup chained to it for the benefit of thirsty humans, for they had never heard of germs.

Several of these wells were open ones. They were cleaned out once in a while, but not until it was deemed to be worth the trouble, and several wagon loads of filth could be taken out at one time. Occasionally a horse would fall into one of them, and then it needed a block and tackle to get it out. It was considered to be a real feat of engineering if the horse could be brought up uninjured. Anything smaller than a horse just fell in and drowned. Maybe it was discovered and fished out. Maybe not.

THE CITY DUMP.

It was these Commons between Main Street and the railroad tracks that were the dumping grounds. The grocers from across the street threw their rotten fruit and vegetables there, and anybody in town having anything for disposal, added it to the pile. It was a welter of chicken feathers, rags, defunct vegetables, bones, old wheels, hoop _ skirts and broken crockery. That was before the day of tin cans.

There were even times when the smell from the dump could be distinguished above that of the manure on the street. For that matter, the beautiful Arcade Block was perfumed, too; it had the poultry house. Furthermore, in the good old summer time, with a soft south wind blowing, the visitor fought for breath with a few more stinks added, for then they had the fumes from the mines, and the stench from the slaughter house, a mile out of town.

Under the Blade's vigorous prodding, the poultry and the slaughter houses were cleaned up, and a part, at least, of the trash was hauled out of town.

So it was that several years passed before the citizens received a new, ever present, and horrible smell that they had to pay for, and about which they could do nothing whatever.

The City Fathers, thinking to quiet the gripes about the fire cisterns, had proudly instituted a water system for the town from the well in Livingston Square. It proved completely inadequate, and during the summer months there were frequent notices in the newspapers warning property owners of the imposed limits regarding the use thereof.

ARCADE BLOCK SINKS.

Human nature being what it is regarding civic improvements, they might have managed to get along nevertheless, except that the Arcade Block sank, caused by a mine tunnel that ran beneath. It was no sudden cave-in, but a gradual sinking. It was first noticed by a TWP.&W. engineer, for the drop had left one of his rails eight inches lower than the other. When he ran over it this time, there was such a movement along the train that he thought he had run off the track. When he ran back to investigate, he discovered what had happened, and he reported at the station.

For several days the sinking caused fevered excitement throughout the town, because it was impossible to tell how much farther it would go. There was already a decided difference between

street levels, which is noticeable to this day, and the water tower, which stood on steel supports, had shifted to a dangerous angle.

Engineers were called in for consultation. They ordered a new tower; and the City Fathers decided that, while they were about it, they might just as well dig a new and better well. They got sulfur water.

For years, visitors to Fairbury drank copiously from the city faucets, under the impression that anything that smelled so evil must, of necessity, be strongly medicinal. Traveling salesman complained vociferously, but the citizens became immune, even to the point that when they visited elsewhere they innocently commented on the flatness of the water they encountered.

Yet, even with this new city well, the outskirts of town were still unsupplied. They had no fire protection, and running water for household uses was furnished by their own windmills. It was not until 1914, when the Township High School was built, that they got around to this, and at the same time, for the first time, all the wells in Fairbury were tested. Only two in all the town were found to be uncontaminated by sewerage.

Nevertheless, before we shake our heads any more over the early sanitary conditions of our town, it might be well for us to remember that some of those settlers lived to a hearty old age. It just could be that they are shaking THEIR heads over US. Just maybe they are thinking that it is a lot simpler to be bitten by a germ than it is to be hit by an automobile.

CHURCHES STRIVE TO END ERA OF "GRACELESS LIVING"

What with all the feuding and fighting, general drunkenness and wholesale arson, the churches of Fairbury had their work cut out for them. The preaching was of the eternal damnation brand, and, it must be admitted, there were plenty of concrete examples.

A visiting Revivalist, hit in the head with a chunk of sod or a rock, pitched through an open window, was able to draw an even hotter picture of hell. In winter, church meetings regularly broken up by red pepper thrown on top of the heating stove, reducing the entire congregation to helpless coughing that drove. Them home. Or, it might be just plain noise that drowned out all the services.

ATTACKS "GRACELESS LIVING"

The churches, however, received powerful help when John Scibird moved to town. Himself a Methodist, he had long lived in Bloomington, where he was Postmaster and member of the City Council, and the editor of a couple of newspapers, one of them being the Pantagraph. He was a man of high morals, besides having a family of his own, and he went right after some of the graceless young members of his church in print. When the janitor complained that some of the boys, sitting together in the back seats, relieved the tedium of the sermon by spitting tobacco juice into puddles on the floor, Scibird lectured the culprits severely, and threatened to publish their names if it happened again.

This threat was equally effective with those youths who skipped school to play marbles all day long at one of the depots, and also with the laggards who were habitually tardy. Nor did he spare the parents.

His reproofs were frequent and blistering, and they covered a rich field. For instance, the evening services of the churches were dating time for the young people. The girls came in decorously with their parents for the preaching, while their swains waited outside. Later, as they emerged from the church and came down the steps, each one's particular admirer would advance and ask permission to walk her home.

There were no telephones, of course, and it was a spontaneous, after church arrangement, whereby each boy took a chance on his particular girl having come that night. To avoid standing around outside all to no purpose, when they might be doing something much more interesting, they would go in, one by one, and look the audience over to make certain if their girl was there.

COLD DRAFTS.

Their interruptions were a major annoyance to the congregation. Also, there was the matter of cold drafts around their feet and across the back of their necks every time the door swung; and the breaks in their attention drove the ministers to wrath. One of them threatened to put up a slate on the entry way, and have each girl register as she come in, making a roster that might be easily consulted. Scibird warmly applauded the idea.

Sometimes a couple of the boys would discover they were both waiting for the same girl, and then a fight would break out. There was always a lot of yelling along with the fighting, and the attention of the church goers would snap from the Minister's "thirdly," to puzzle over who it could be; what started the fight this time; and who was likely to be winning.

Scibird suggested that the boys come in and have their morals improved. He also vigorously belabored them for the way they lined up along the walks after services to whistle at the girls and make audible comments about them as they passed. He reminded these "tony young men" of the rigid social law forbidding any man who even PRETENDED to be a gentleman, to smoke in the presence of a lady. He furiously added that their tobacco smoke and loud talk made the front walks of the churches like bar rooms; (and it is to be remembered that, in those days every woman looked straight ahead when she passed a saloon unless she was not the respectable kind.)

THE MCDOWELL BOYS

His phrase, "tony young men" referred specifically to the McDowell boys, Elmer, Tommy, and Johnny, sons of Isaac P.

Their father, an Elder of the church, was a tall, thin man with a bald head and chin whiskers; and one who remembered, described him briefly as a "sanctimonious old coot."

He left his religion in his pew, and on week days he busily wrung a fortune from a reluctant world with tombstones, real estate, banking, or anything else that came to hand. He was widely considered to drive better than a shrewd bargain, but he displayed the most amazing gullibility about his boys.

Elmer was the oldest of their gang, and for years they perpetrated most of the mischief around Fairbury. Other boys, as was natural did a few things, too, but if there was any doubt at all about who were the culprits, the McDowell boys instantly received credit.

The Methodists forgave them some of their pranks because of the side—splitting performances they put on after church when they had removed the wheel taps from their father's buggy. All the horses and buggies were tied at long hitching racks in front of the churches, and the rest of the Methodist congregation learned to linger and watch Isaac's family drive away. One by one his wheels would fall off, and as he wrestled to get them back in place, his boys would express the profoundest sympathy, wondering loudly who could have done such a cowardly thing to such a nice old man.

They gave repeat performances of this, undoubtedly by popular request, varying it with the times they hid the taps under the cushions of the back seat, so that wheels kept coming off all the way home.

What happened one Conference time, however, was a completely different matter. The Methodist Ministers of the surrounding country met at Fairbury to transact annual church business and to be assigned to their pulpits. It was customary for the members of a local church to take one or more of the visiting clergymen to their homes for the night, and so Isaac McDowell, being an Elder, invited a couple of them to go home with him.

There was another meeting after supper, and as the men walked back to the church after dark, the boys slipped up behind them and slugged the visitors with a piece of rubber hose. Their victims knew enough about the town that they made specific accusations, which the Elder denied in horror. For proof, they all rushed back to the house where they found the boys even at that early hour, "sound asleep" in bed.

Their father might never have been any the wiser, but the boys had discovered an interesting brand new sport. For several nights they hung around the dark alleys of the Arcade Block, busily cracking all heads that came into reach, and there were a fair number of casualties before they were caught and arrested. They were let off with a fine, but Scibird's next paper, which was published weekly, carried the full account under the headlines: "Rubber Hose, $9.45 A FOOT."

PAPERS FLOURISH IN WAR AGAINST CRIME, EACH OTHER

We have witnessed how the churches of nineteenth century Fairbury dealt with the hoodlums and culprits/of that period, and a little of the newspapers' part in the crusade to lift the morals of the town. Now more of the latter.

The Blade Editor, at this time, Scibird, was a man of vigorous courage, and he went to war with his pen over the abduction of Annie Manning. Under the heading of "An Infernal Outrage," he told her story:

Ann Manning had come to Fairbury with the promise of a position of waitress at $3.00 a week. It was good wages for such work, and Annie was anxious to get it, especially as it was Molly Stewart, her cousin, who had written to her. What Annie did not know was that Molly was an inmate of Leonard Gardner's house of prostitution, one of the many in Fairbury. (By 1896 the City Clerk had registered fifty-four such houses. Gardner's place, as were some others, was outside the town limits and would need no license.)

Gardner and Molly took her there and kept her prisoner, but in a few days she managed to get word to the authorities; and after a little gun play, the State's Attorney's men succeeded in rescuing her.

Deep indignation was expressed by all classes of citizens at the dastardly and vicious attempt to ruin an innocent girl. Some of the best citizens feeling that the law could hardly punish this outrage as it

deserved, expressed the belief that nothing but the court of Judge Lynch would ever rid this community of this vile den -where such wrongs could be attempted or perpetrated. Certain it is, the patience of our people will not tolerate the nuisance much longer, judging from the feelings expressed on Monday when the prospect seemed fair that the guilty parties were likely to go un-whipped of justice.

"THEY HAVE TO GO."

That was on May 3rd. Three weeks later there was a short paragraph: "Sheriff Hunter was in town Monday, gathering in the boys for witnesses at the Gardner trial Tuesday. When Mr. Hunter “gets after them, they have to go, and there's no use trying to dodge him."

The consequences in happy homes, following that visit of the Sheriff, can be clearly imagined.

On June 21st, of that same year, 1879, there was a final report: "On last Friday and Saturday the Gardner troupe of prostitutes shipped themselves and furniture to more congenial climes. Report says they went to Alton. They have gone and it is to stay, it is hoped. State's Attorney Murdock and C. C. Strawn, Esq. have the hearty thanks of the better part of this community for the vigorous and effective prosecution of Gardner and his crew which resulted in the breaking up of the establishment, sending to prison and driving away the entire lot."

Sensations like this came all too seldom. The rest of the time the weekly issues were filled with accounts of practical jokes on prominent citizens, drunken brawls, the latest details of the more interesting romances, and of course, the Parties. Scibird's knowledge of reader psychology was a practical one. Instead of saying that twenty-five guests attend a function, he would state, with a flourish, that "a quarter of a hundred were present." Any gathering with any pretense of style was "recherche." "Soiree" was another word he commonly used for a party, as was "Soiree dansante." He described weddings with a full list of guests and presents given by them.

"BACK STAIRS" MANSIONS.

As did all the other editors of his time, Scibird called any home bigger than a shack a "mansion." The new Isaac Walton home was the exception: this one was a "Chateau."

(A mansion was once defined as a house that had a back stairs; or one having three or more chimneys. This latter was because they indicated the number of rooms the occupants heated in the winter, betokening their scale of luxurious living.)

Possibly to Scibird's French influence could be traced the local livery stable that advertised itself as "Seller's Equine Bureau" and the Fairbury barber who made "Pate de Foie Gras Hair Tonic" which he guaranteed a cure for dandruff.

During the weeks when things were dull, anything served as news, and the editor gravely reported that "Will Fugate's cow died of a broken neck." If all else failed, he fell upon any rumors going around and printed those.

Yet, small town newspaper though it might be, the Independent Blade was a cut above the average. Anyone, then could start a newspaper. All a man needed were a few cases of type, a bundle of paper, a Washington hand press, and a "devil." There was evidence, too, that only a little education was

necessary to become an editor, and some of their papers made a reader wonder what in the world had been their occupation before they took to print.

To contrast them, Scibird had a working knowledge of grammar, a fair vocabulary, a courageous, crusading spirit, and a typesetter that knew his business. George Franzen, his compositor and early resident of Fairbury, and known to all as "Peck" even after he became Mayor of the place, was so expert at setting type that he held a record of sorts throughout Illinois.

SKYLARKING AT THE BLADE.

Ed Scibird, John's son, was Assistant Editor, and Steve Murdock, son of the State's Attorney, whose office was overhead, was devil.

Sometimes there appeared at the head of the Personal Column a sentence or two that suggested that the devil had moved things on the compositor just before the paper went to press.

They had to be short, or Peck would have noticed them. "George Franzen got another perfumed letter." or "George Franzen is not Married," or maybe even one like this, "Uncle Jesse Titus says that he had no objections to George Franzen going with the girls, but he does object to George forming platoons of three with a blushing damsel on each arm and crowding people off the sidewalk." There was skylarking at the old Blade Office.

Sometimes the editor himself got a bit roguish, and mentioned "John McDowell's Soiree with a Mule," or called potatoes "Irish Lemons."

Or, there might be something like this: "As one of our young bloods was sitting on the steps of a Paducah Avenue (Walnut Street) residence last Sunday evening beside his loved one, he claimed the right to a kiss for every shooting star. She at first demurred, as becomes a modest maiden, but finally yielded. She was even so accommodating as to call his attention to flying meteors that escaped his attention, and at last got him down to steady work on the light of a lantern that a brakeman was swinging about the depot in the distance where the stock train was switching. Isn't that about right, Frank?"

This happy era of the publishing of the Independent Blade ended in 1881 with the death of John Scibird. His son, Ed, took charge for a short time until it could be sold, and then the family moved away.

Wherewith there followed, for the next thirteen years, a succession of editors who tarried but briefly, repented of their bargain, and moved on to more lucrative businesses. It was evident that most of them were unhappy with the paper, and subscriptions fell. To make matters worse, Fairbury had another newspaper now. One of their own migrant editors had sold the Independent Blade with the usual promise not to start another paper in Fairbury. This he broke as a matter of course, and the Local Record came into being in 1883. Just seven months later, he sold out again to Charles Brydia, who had been publishing the Saunemin, Illinois paper.

A RUNNING BATTLE.

Immediately the two papers began a running battle, for it was customary and the readers expected it.

The Blade traded insults with him, calling him "Brydia, the windbag of the Local Record," and received bouquets in kind. The Blade editor got discouraged and decided to sell, and this time part interest was bought by young Newt Fulton, a local boy, who had been Brydia's own foreman. Also with the ‘Blade now, was Peck Franzen, back again from wandering; and with a pair like that, the Blade suddenly came to life, sat up, and started flexing its muscles.

From then on, Brydia was busy dodging, although he generally gave as good as he took; but there were times when Newt sharpened his pen and dipped it in vitriol.

"CAP SEEMS TO FIT"

"A certain alleged newspaper man hereabouts, complains that the Blade never mentions him by name. It doesn't have to. Every time the Blade says 'donkey' the A.N.M. in question brays 'here' and every time the Blade says 'skunk' the A.N.M. stinks responsively. For instance, the Blade article of which he complains was about an alleged newspaper man who had been lying about his circulation, and how did he know the Blade meant him and what call had he to get mad?

This A.N.M.is constantly exemplifying the words of the old hymn:"Here, Lord, I give myself away. 'Tis all that I can do!"

‘Straight into this barrage there walked a Mr. Windle who already owned a newspaper in El Paso, Illinois, and who had decided to try his fortunes in Fairbury. -

From the very first, his position was equivocal because his Fairdealer professed to be strongly Prohibition, whereas his El Paso paper was pro-Saloon; and the night that he was drunk and fell off the train did not go unnoticed, you may be sure.

DODGES FORMALITY.

Somehow or other, Windle got himself elected to the Fairbury School Board, and shortly thereafter his Fairdealer received a nice job of printing with the formality of all the papers offering bids on the same. This was straight against the law, and immediately the air quivered with the baying of the newshounds. The press of all the neighboring towns took up the chase, and both the Local Record and the Blade dropped everything else to concentrate on Windle.

It was a masterly performance, and it was too much for Mr. Windle. He left town for an immediate vacation and shortly thereafter, he moved away entirely, leaving the Blade and the Local Record to undisputed possession of their territory.

The Blade was howling Republican, and the Record was rabid Democrat. Beside the administration of local and national government and the resulting elections, the two of them argued among other things, the issue of Free Silver, the impending Pure Food Laws, Woman's Suffrage, and the local mine strikes. Both were prospering again after the recent and terrible depression which had wrecked so many of the Fairbury business houses, and at the close of 1899 both editors were busy with the things that concerned the interests of the town.

Looking back at it now, it seems amazing to us that neither of them so much as mentioned the close of

their Century. They confidently hustled into another new year, quite unaware of course, that their familiar way of life was being finished forever.

Within a few short years, the electric lights, the automobile, and the telephone had extinguished their old manners and customs, and even their standards of thinking. By the end of the first World War, the very household articles that had been in everyday use in their homes had already found their way into museums and antique shops, and the opinions of the so-called "Gay Nineties" were no less quaint. The world was on the move.

NEW DEPOT A SIGN OF GROWING UNITY.

One of the most convincing signs that the wounds of the old Amsbary-Marsh feud were healing, and that the town was enjoying a healthy growth, was the building of a single railroad depot to serve the entire community.

The fate of the original depot built on Patton's grant was not recorded. Probably it had slowly sunk out of sight into the mud. The second, for the West End, had been the lobby of the plush Livingston Hotel, and they lost it of course, when it was burned.

As for the third, in the East End, the force of public opinion compelled the Fairbury House to surrender the privilege. It stood on the corner of Fourth Street and Walnut, then known as Paducah Avenue, and many of the trainmen lived there. For the accommodation of them and passengers, a wooden platform had been built from the front of the hotel across the street to the tracks. This completely obstructed the street, forcing all vehicles to detour around the block, and the day it was torn out was an occasion of great general rejoicing.

The new Fairbury depot was freight, express and telegraph office, a low wooden structure with a board loading platform extending its length. At night it was lighted by oil lamps set on high posts, which sometimes exploded, scattering flaming oil.

The building itself housed the freight, express and telegraph offices, and provided separate waiting rooms for men and women. Each waiting room had wooden benches around the walls which separated into single seats by iron arm rests and each room was heated by a pot-bellied stove and lighted by oil lamps hanging overhead; but the room for men could be distinguished at a glance, it always had spittoons.

Over night, the new depot became an important social center. The lucky travelers waiting for their trains, visited with each other, the men comparing business conditions, and the women discussing styles and sales, for a good number of the passengers went to Peoria to shop and to transact business. Friends joined friends for the journey, all feeling pleasantly important to be going out of town, and to be interviewed by the reporters from the newspapers, knowing that the item would be in the next week's edition. Conversely, the depot was no place for reticence, and the travelers who resented the importunities of the reporters were reproved in print for their lack of public spirit.

Always there was a crowd of envious onlookers to heighten the satisfaction of those who were going away, for anyone down-town at train time automatically went over to the depot, and the unfortunates who were unable to leave their places of business stood in the doorways to watch the trains come in. A train, to these pioneer people immobilized by the miles of mud surrounding their town, meant a thrill to watch the little engines with their big smokestacks rolling smoke, pulling a string of a few

rattling wooden cars behind them. They always stopped with a dramatic blast of steam. Then the baggage trucks rolled into place to receive the mail and luggage while the passengers came down the steps of the coaches. Friends and relatives surged forward to meet them, to give way, in a moment, to those who were leaving.

It was so fascinating that the depot speedily became a favorite loafing place for both men and boys. Often feminine passengers were genuinely shocked by the loud talk and profanity, and if they were pretty, they were apt to have the additional annoyance of having "mash" notes handed to them by the means of small boys.

These boys were a pestilence. Their chief amusement was to mount the steps of the passenger cars and ride the short distance to the mines. There were so many of them and they were so ill—mannered, and the practice was so continuous, that it was most difficult to get on or off a train. They shoved men and women alike, treading on toes and gowns. They Climbed the engine and tried to ride the cow-catcher and otherwise harried the trainmen until the railroad officials forcibly broke up the practice.

In fact, Fairbury became known far and wide, and for very good reasons, and another of these reasons was the McDowell boys. It got so that on the passenger trains, moving on again into Fairbury after the stop at the mines for coal, had their brakemen go through the coaches, bawling:"Fairbury! Fairbury! Pull your windows down!"

The initiated complied immediately; but the innocents who wondered what all the fuss was about and hesitated until the train had reached depot, were caught slam in the face with a well—aimed pie.

Blackberry or raspberry pies obtained from the railroad restaurant were the favorite missiles, as the results from these were particularly spectacular, ‘but a brush full of paint or whitewash swiped across a victim's face was almost as good, or even a stick with a blob of "car dough" om it. ("Dough" was the hard grease in the wheel boxing of the railroad cars.)

Sometimes, if the passengers were too wary, all of the train windows remained closed. Then the McDowell boys would stage a rousing fight with much yelling and arm swinging. Human curiosity can stand just so much, and so up would go the windows again. The heads would pop out to see what was going on, with horrible results, and in a few minutes another train with its luckless passengers would pull out to spread the news afar, their feelings in no way modified by the howls of laughter from the depot loafers.

FLAG POLES MARK RALLYING PLACES IN YOUNG CITY

In spite of the hazards, however, train travel became increasingly popular, and in the evening in all the towns along the line, all the larger social functions entertaining out of town guests were timed according to the train schedule. A good part of their fun was getting there, for the double, red-plush car seats were reversible, making it possible for four people to sit together; and come dusk, it was cozy when the brakeman came through to light the lamps overhead and poke up the fire in the stove at the end of the car.

Ventilation throughout the train was regulated from the individual windows, regardless of the wishes of the luckless passengers sitting nearby. The thick, acrid smoke and cinders that whipped through the windows were of little moment. A heavy layer of soot on one's face and neck was accepted as part of the train ride, and the mark of distinction of having been out of town.

The windows themselves, however, were sometimes most difficult to adjust, and the common wolf approach was to offer to assist a young lady with her window.

On Excursion Days, passengers got round-trip tickets at attractively reduced rates to various points where something special was going on, and the trains were jammed to the doors. When the new Nebraska Territory was opened up, the real-estate operators not only ran special trains at reduced rates, but they also refunded the fare if a land purchase was made.

The Chatsworth wreck, which was among the worst in railroad history, resulted from one of these Excursions to Niagara Falls. On the return trip a grass fire had weakened the wooden supports of a bridge, causing it to collapse when the double-headed train ran over it. The flimsy wooden coaches smashed into kindling as they tumbled down the embankment. A hundred people were killed out-right, but hundreds of others were left injured and dying. All of the Fairbury doctors and many other helpers went over to give assistance that night

There were Excursions near home, too, and the service of special trains for special events along the route was a regular accommodation.

Fairbury Fair always had several of them for its big days, and political meetings that had big-name speakers were thus assured of large audiences. Torchlight parades went with the oratory, and, when a particularly hot issue was at hand, even the little boys had parades of their own.

Everything relating to politics was strictly masculine, and no women were allowed on the trains going to these rallies. Sometimes these were fourteen cars long, and it took a conductor to every car to keep any kind of order. It was commonly believed that the Republicans behaved themselves fairly well, but about fifty per cent of the Democrats got drunk.

The Fairbury rallies were held down on Main street, each party gathering around its own flag pole. The one at the East End near the common was the Democratic; the middle one, near the depot, was the Republican; and the one at the West End, the Prohibition, was close to the Arcade Block, and had a large gilded ball on top.

It is said that they never tore down each others poles, but "each party used to rally around their own poles and just raise the dickens" with speeches and singing. Once in a while there might be an argument on the edge.

The Excursions and pleasure trips took place in the summer because winter storms were apt to be serious. There were no snow plows for their engines, and any drifts on the track had to be shoveled off by hand. The snowbanks along the Chicago and Paducah tracks were sometimes from four to seven feet deep and ran four miles or more. One such drift took twenty-seven men twenty-four hours to dig it clear. (That record of hours and labor is note-worthy.) Sometimes it was days before a train could get through. Trains were often snowbound all night and rescue parties from nearby farms had to go out with bobsleds of fuel and food. One of the first groups of stranded passengers in the country managed to keep warm by smashing and burning the car seats.

The train crew, nevertheless, had fun along with their worries. One freight train ‘went through Fairbury with a snow man, dressed in an old coat and smoking cap, riding on top.

Scibird found out about some fun too! "There was a locomotive elopement on the Chicago and Paducah road at Gibson City on Tuesday morning. It came about while the engineer and fireman and other boys were in the depot 'discussing' a stray box of peaches. The engine, with steam up, stood on track, detached from the train. The valves opened from some cause, and the 'Masheen' moved off slowly at first, but soon 'lit out! at lightning speed with valves wide open, and ran about four miles before it exhausted the steam. Another engine at hand hauled the "Elopee' back to business, then the freight started north, arriving at Fairbury three hours behind time."

FLIES, FIGHTS AND HALLOWEEN PESTER CITIZENS

Like the depot, the post office was another informal gathering place for both young and old. As there were no mail deliveries, it was necessary for the villagers to carry their own; and so, as soon as the mail bags had been brought from the train, the hopeful began to gather.

The post office itself was located in the back of Ramsey's Post Office Store, and to reach the window it was necessary to pass along counters filled with general merchandise, such as "tobacco, school and blank books, nice library lamps, the best five cent cigars in the country, candy and nuts, patent medicines of all kinds, stationery, toy velocipedes, wagons, croquet sets, Rogers Groups of Statuary, groceries and violins." As the aisles filled, hurried business men, trying to wedge their way to the window through all the sociability, were driven to frenzy when they discovered that the Postmaster himself had stopped for a prolonged gossip. Bitter protests only drew a cold warning in The Blade: "When you wish for your mail, do not stand opposite your box and pound on the number."

The walk back home was an opportunity to shop, or at least see what the stores had to offer. This was particularly true of the grocery stores, which operated almost on a day-to-day basis. During the summer this was displayed along the sidewalk in open bins and racks. Dust and flies moved in clouds all along the streets, and some of the more progressive merchants attempted to cover their choicest wares with pieces of mosquito netting. Their customers, however, raised —these so often to see what was underneath, that they became fly traps instead. Window and door screens were unknown, and dirt and bugs entered the shops without hindrance, settling on the wares displayed on the open counters. Many of the staple foods were kept in uncovered barrels where the mice played at night. Tinned food, there was none. And every family expected to preserve its own meat, fruits, and vegetable. There were never any tomatoes at any time. These were called "love apples" and were considered highly poisonous.

Lemons and oranges were few, and the lucky child who received an orange in his stocking on Christmas morning, treasured it until it had definitely begun to spoil, and they ate it, peel and all.

By mid-winter, eggs were equally precious. There was no way of preserving them and so, when the cold made the hens quit laying, their hungry owners had to do without. In bitter weather, the farmer who got to town with a few eggs was nearly mobbed, and was even able to sell them at the fabulous price of 25¢ a dozen. Occasionally, the bartenders managed to beat the rush, and then there would be a celebration with Tom and Jerry’s, accompanied by the lamentations of the cooks.

Rotten eggs were equally in demand, but by the boys of the town. The East and West feud was dead, of course, but in its place there flourished a lively war between the town and the farm boys. The latter appeared in town on Saturdays, and as regularly, they attempted to clean out the place. "A good many lads of sixteen years and upwards were in town last Saturday, and seemed to be doing their best to be checking a drought in this city. The Saloons were swarming with them the whole day, and at night the sidewalks were too narrow for their navigation."

The town boys naturally, rallied to the defense, and the battles that surged through the streets and alleys were memorable. The eggs were their most popular missiles, but anything at all would do – stones, Clods, rotten pumpkins or vegetables; and if a stray pedestrian accidentally happened to step within range, it was counted his own hard luck.

It was a Situation that was hard to bear, for the citizens felt they had enough to endure with their own boys without additions. They never knew when they went down to work, they would find all the signs up and down the street interchanged again.

And Halloween time was pure nightmare. Most of the day following was spent hunting scrambled personal property that was scattered around town. Certain things were automatically expected; the wandering front gate, the overturned privy, the vegetables and the dead cats scattered on the front porch, and the missing sections of board side walks and fences.

Occasionally there was something a little more spectacular to engage their attention, such as a farm wagon on the school house roof. It took real work to get that wagon apart, hoist it piece by piece, and reassemble it up there against the stars; and much more work later, and at a price, to get it down again. To the maddened owner, it was anything but a joke.

It was serious enough for editorial comment: "Halloween, the day the boys celebrate, is billed to arrive in Fairbury. next Wednesday. It will be best to deposit your front gate in the cellar if you want to save time and trouble the following morning; also take the chain off the dog and lock it around your buggy wheels-—-the chain, not the dog-~and for your neighbor's sakes put your turnips and cabbages where the small boys can't get at them. Be wise and prepare against the evil day."

A few years later, there was a young editor, it seems: "To a small boy it is a pleasure to see the head of the house go out in the gray dawn of the following morn and discover his coal house and other property in some neighbor's yard several blocks away. To a grown person, the custom is a vicious one, but it was inaugurated by our forefathers, and in respect to their memory, we say, ‘Let 'er go!'"

THE STUFFED CLUB A POTENT FACTOR IN EARLY DAYS

Fair Week was another nightmare, at ‘least to the constables, as it was accompanied by fresh swarms of boys. At this time they came from Chicago, Peoria, and St. Louis, and ostensibly they were bootblacks. In reality, they were accomplished pick-pockets, and petty thieves, and their harvest was a rich one until the harried authorities, already frantically trying to keep the village respectable by shooing the droves of visiting prostitutes and Fairbury's own, off the streets took to rounding up every strange boy loose in town and jailing him until the Fair was over, and then "warning him out of town."

Even after the fair was over the town had its own "Stuffed Club" gang left, and there was a time when no man, regardless of age or profession, was safe outdoors after sundown, not even if he was with a lady.

These boys, dodging among the dark shadows, struck from behind and a man was knocked down before being aware that anyone was even near him. Usually the boys were content with merely stunning their victims, but upon at least one occasion a group of clergymen were brutally beaten. The boys became so bold that they even attacked the crowds leaving shows at the opera house.

After nearly every man in town had been swatted at one time or another the gang must grown a little careless for one of the "clubs" was captured. "A 'stuffed club' has been found and is on exhibition at The Blade office. It is a canvas stick six inches in diameter and 12 inches long. It is stuffed with excelsior and coarse salt, and tied to a stick two feet long. It is used to thump people on the streets after dark."

After this discovery the clubs were used more openly and among other things, they established a sort of censorship of strangers coming into town. A newcomer who opened a place of business that threatened the family pocketbook of a gang member, was quickly induced by a stuffed club to settle elsewhere.

The gang also eliminated practically all outside competition with the girls, being especially hard on the Pontiac boys who unlike themselves, had a reputation of being quite fancy dressers. The first time the caller appeared, he was let off with a warning, since it was considered that ignorance was the cause of his mistake; but if he appeared again, they waited until he had reached his loved one's gate, and paused to wipe the dust off his shoes with his pocket handkerchief, then fell upon him with rotten eggs. One dose of this indignity was usually sufficient to keep him clear of the town, but if his bravery exceeded his discretion, and he came the third time, he got the stuffed club treatment which was nearly sure to be conclusive.

But even to the home town boys, romance had its perils. Casual flirtations were discouraged by the cold eyes of vigilant parents, plus the handy grapevine of gossip and the newspaper comments.

Moreover, there were the young ladies themselves to reckon with. They had at least two fads of the "ever thine" variety; the lock of hair in the breast pin, and the quilt of necktie pieces. Legitimately, these were bestowed as fond keepsakes, in return, perhaps for a hand-painted necktie executed by the girl herself; but fads are fads, and these came to be a measure of popularity, and no Apache warrior was ever prouder of his ‘collection of scalps than the girls with their hunks of hair and growing crazy quilts. Many a boy got home from a date to find himself with an unexpected bald spot, or a cherished part of his wardrobe missing.

And then, once he had become serious about a girl, and had escorted her to the various church suppers and festivals, and had taken her tobogganing down the coal shaft hill slide, it was considered recherche for him to serenade her.

To do this really in style he was to get a team of horses and a wagon. This latter had to be scrubbed out first and then four torchlights were fastened to the corners. Then he loaded an organ into it (the kind you pumped with your feet), collected a few friends with guitars and set out. Almost inevitably, the following night his male friends burlesqued his fervent efforts, and their caterwauling was in no wise calculated to increase his popularity with any of the villagers who wanted to sleep.

After that it was practically over but the wedding. These were more or less quiet affairs, for it had not yet become the custom to have attendants. It was the charivari, after the couple had returned from their honeymoon, that tore the top off the town. All the boys and a good many of the men, joined the celebration with anything that would produce a good, loud, substantial noise. Tin pans and horns were the favorites, and the size of the racket they produced supposedly corresponded with the popularity of the couple. It continued, too, until the happy bridegroom came out and stood treat for the crowd. It was fun for them, but it was purest broth of hell for the sick and sleepless, and it became such an outstanding nuisance that, at the turn of the century, the state legislature outlawed the custom.

Married and settled down, a respected and substantial citizen, it became his own turn to worry about a newer generation which seemed straight on the way to perdition. To offset the effects of the nightly fires, fist fights, wholesale drunkenness and assorted pranks, it took a steady nerve and strong right arm, for the creed of the day was that sparing of the rod was sure to spoil the child. In fact, the moral hazards were considered to be so great that one old gaffer testily remarked that the only way to successfully raise a boy was to put him in a barrel and feed him through the bunghole.

Brick passenger station, shown looking south from Central Park, was stylish building, brings back memories of when city had passenger train service. Last complete passenger train on a regular run passed through Fairbury in fall of 1927. Some of the freight trains pulled a passenger car or two until 1931.

This view of Central Park was taken before what is known as the Duell Block came into existence. Fountain in the center has long-since ceased to flow.

Cement sidewalks were in, but a lone horse and buggy, instead of countless automobiles, was on the street when this picture was taken from the third story of the hotel on a winter day over 40 years ago.

First Methodist church looked like this soon after its completion in 1906.

N. B. Claudon, one of the many foreign-born persons who, after coming to this country, settled here and took part in the shaping of Fairbury's early history.

Born in Metz, France, in 1858, Mr. Claudon came to Fairbury in 1880 and started a grain business. His cribs once stood in the vacant lot south of the Methodist church. In 1915 he built the elevator now known as the Corn Belt elevator. He died in 1913.

Sorghum factory and ice plant, at right, located on the Munz land, are pictured here. The sorghum mill burned in 1907, the ice house lasted until 1945.

Present First Presbyterian church building, as it appeared soon after addition was built. Original church was built in 1882, the addition put on in 1948.

Taken sometime in the 1880's or 90's, this picture shows the old Fairbury wooden water tower at right, and the studio of Jay Swaps, located just west of the First and Locust street intersection.

This barn once stood along the alley back of the Apostolic Christian church. Built around 1894, it was 100 feet long and housed horses driven by members who came for all day services on Sunday.

It was used as a garage when cars came into use, but was never popular for this purpose and was torn down in January of 1939.

Horse-drawn hearse was used in Fairbury until 1912, when first motor-driven ambulance was purchased.

This Tabernacle once stood at the corner of Fourth and Walnut streets, where Harve's Dairy Stand now is.

This gay group were all set for a Sunday drive when this shot was snapped on the Fairbury main street in 1915. Ladies in the back are Mrs. G. B. Spence, Mrs. E. J. Burley and Mrs. Edna Westervelt.

Left to right, the others are Art Reed, Mr. Burley, Mrs. Reed and Jay Claudon.

RAILROAD RESTAURANT in Fairbury shown above stood where Maurer and Roth building (formerly the Duell Block) is now located on Third street, just south of the railroad tracks.

Darnall First Settler In Livingston County

V. M. Darnall and Frederick Rook were the first white men to locate in the territory now embraced in Livingston County. Darnall erected his cabin in the southern part of the timber known as Indian Grove, in the fall of 1829, soon after the Kickapoo Indians had exchanged this locality for Oliver's Grove.

At or about the time that Darnall made his settlement at Indian Grove, Frederick Rook located five miles west of Pontiac, on the creek which still bears his name; and, soon after, Isaac Jordan selected his location. Rook removed to Missouri at an early day, and the exact date of his settlement here cannot be obtained. These three men, with their families, were the only white persons, in this locality, who saw the "great snow" which fell in the winter of 1830-31. This fall of snow was phenomenal, and its like, probably, had never occurred before, and certainly has not since within the limits of the State. In a dead calm it fell to the depth of four feet. This was followed by a drizzling rain, which soon turned to sleet. Then the weather became intensely cold, and the whole face of the country was covered with a sheet of ice, overlying a field of snow that was four feet deep on the level.

This storm was very destructive to game of all kinds, and it was several years before it again became abundant. Deer, by the hundreds, starved to death, and birds, such as goose and quail, perished in great numbers. Squire L. Payne, of Eppard's Point, who at that time resided near Danville, informs the writer

that deer, showing no signs of fear, would stand and eat the branches from a fallen tree while the woodman was chopping and splitting the body of the same. He further says that, after the snow had continued for some time, the deer were not molested, as they were so emaciated as to be unfit for food, and were only occasionally killed for their skins.

At this period, the Kickapoo Indians had a village at Oliver's Grove, and they, as well as the few white settlers, suffered severely from intense cold and scarcity of food. During the continuance of the snow, they used their large council house as a common kitchen for all. Their camp kettles were kept constantly boiling, and into them were thrown such animal food as they could procure. A starved deer was a welcome addition to their larder, and, when other supplies failed, a pony was sacrificed, and horse soup dished out.

Frederick Rook and Isaac Jordan found their stock of provisions failing, and they conceived the idea of manufacturing snow-shoes from boards and going to Mackinaw for supplies, for it was impossible for them to travel with a horse. They accomplished the journey on their snow-shoes, and when they reached that, to the Egyptian storehouse, they were so fortunate as to receive each a bushel and half of corn. They placed this on hand-sleds and drew it home, arriving there on the evening of the fourth day. This corn they pounded into meal, and by careful husbanding, made it last them till further supplies could be obtained.

When the snow began to fall, Major Darnall was over on the Mackinaw, his wife and four small children being at home in Indian Grove, with a scanty supply of provisions. He waited during the night for the storm to abate but, at the early dawn, he mounted his horse, which was an excellent one, and taking the half of a deer before him, without guide or compass, he started across the trackless snowfield for his distant home. It was a perilous undertaking and, at times it seemed useless to try to proceed, as the horse would sink to his saddlegirths in the snow; but horse and rider persevered, and, just as the sun was setting, he spied the smoke curling from the chimney of his cabin, which was half buried in snow. Imagination can paint the blissful meeting of husband and wife on this occasion; and there have been few happier family meetings than the one gathered around Major Darnall's hearthstone on that memorable evening.

Major Darnall still resides in the vicinity of Fairbury, possessed of a competence, honored and respected; and it is worth something to hear him recount the history of the early days of Livingston County.

During the year 1830, Andrew McMillan and Garret M. Blue located on Rook's Creek, and their descendants are numerous. Blue's name and those of his sons frequently appear in the political annals of the county.

Jacob Moon came to Moon's Point in the same year, and his progeny are among the most wealthy and respected in the county.

On the 5th day of May, 1832, William McDowell, from Sciota County, Ohio with his five sons, John, Hiram, Woodford G., Joseph and James, and his two daughters, Betty and Hannah, settled in what is now Avoca Township, on the Little Vermilion. Their nearest white neighbor on the south was one Philip Cook; but they could call around on Frederick Rook, Isaac Jordan or William Popejoy, almost any time, by going a distance of five to fifteen miles.

The elder McDowell displayed excellent judgment in selecting this location, for after forty-five years

of continual farming, the soil is still rich and productive.

The McDowells at once proceeded to erect their cabin. The principal tool used in its construction was an axe. They brought with them a few panes of glass for a window, and, in this particular, they had the advantage of their neighbors. The boards which furnished the material for the floor and window casing of this primitive dwelling, were purchased of the Kickapoo Indians, and were brought from Oliver's Grove with an ox team. The Indians had hewn them out for some purpose of their own, but were induced to part with them for a small supply of ammunition.

The Black Hawk war was then in active operation, and this settlement was within a short march of the headquarters of this terrible chief. This same year, Wm. Popejoy, John Hanneman and Franklin Oliver located, and soon took an active part in the affairs of the settlement. Black Hawk maintained his position, and the situation of the settlers became alarming, as it was not known what attitude the Kickapoo Indians (numbering 630) at Oliver's Grove, would assume; and, on the 20th of May, they were waited upon by a deputation of whites for the purpose of ascertaining their intentions.

At this meeting, the venerable Franklin Oliver presided. On their return from the council, the members of the deputation stopped at the McDowell cabin and took dinner, and they advised the settlers either to abandon their homes or proceed to erect fortifications. The latter scheme was impracticable for the reason that there were but two rifles in the whole settlement, and very little ammunition. On the 27th of May, all the white men in the settlement held a council, and it was then and there decided that the best thing that could be done, under the circumstances, was to retire to the white settlements in Indiana; and on the evening of the 28th the entire white population camped in and around the McDowell cabin, preparatory to march the next morning.

This company consisted of the McDowell family, and William Popejoy, Abner Johnson, Uriah Blue, Isaac Jordan, and John Hanneman, and their families--thirty-one souls in all. In speaking of this party, Hon. Woodford G. McDowell who was one of the number says:

"I feel sure, if the entire outfit had been required to raise twenty-five dollars among them, or be scalped by the Indians, they would have been compelled to throw up the sponge--they could not have raised the money."

On the morning of the 29th of May, the whole company of seven families, in six wagons took up the line of march and left the embryo county in possession of the Indians. Darnall must have retreated some time previous, as his name is not mentioned in this exodus; and as far as Oliver is concerned, he came and went among the Indians at his own pleasure, and without fear of molestation. He thoroughly understood their character, and was accounted a favorite among them; and, in fact, an Indian chief was called after his name.

During the march to Indiana, several interesting incidents transpired. The more timid were in hourly anticipation of an attack from Black Hawk, and could scarcely be persuaded to regulate their pace with the ox teams which drew the women and children. On the second day of their march, the wife of Isaac Jordan presented him with an infant daughter; and James McDowell, then a young man of 17 years, together with another youth, walked to a grove of timber four miles distant to procure wood enough to build a camp fire. On their return, they found the camp in great commotion. A couple of Indians had been seen on a ridge overlooking the camp, and then disappear in the tall grass. Women and children were crying, and even some of the men were badly frightened, and counseled an immediate flight, as they supposed the Indians they had seen were scouts sent out by Black Hawk. Others were less excited,

and proceeded to light the campfire and prepare their supper, the elder McDowell remarking, as he held his frying-pan over the fire, that "he did not propose to be scalped on an empty stomach." It was soon ascertained, however, that the Indians were two friendly Kickapoos, who had come to bid their white friends farewell; but the incident proved the different material of which the company was composed, and had not a little to do with the estimate in which they subsequently held each other's character.

The next day, the mother and child were left at the house of Philip Cook, before mentioned, as this was considered sufficiently remote from the seat of war to be safe; and the remainder of the party pushed on to Indiana. A. B. Phillips and James Spence, with their families, had taken refuge within a fortification on the Mackinaw. But, in the fall of the same year, nearly all of the persons mentioned in the exodus returned to their claims.

"We have seen how near the daughter of Isaac Jordan came to being born in the limits of the county, but the first white child actually born within the borders of Livingston, was a son of A. B. Phillips. He grew to manhood, and when the hour of his country's peril came, he was one of the first to answer her call, and he gave his life to maintain her honor. Thus the county literally gave her 'first born for a sacrifice.' All honor to such men!

"On fame's eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread,
And glory guards, with solemn round,
The bivouac of the dead."

The second birth in the county was J. W. Darnall, now 47 years old, and a worthy and respected citizen. When the settlers returned from Indiana, with them came Nathan Popejoy, and located a few miles east of Pontiac. At this period, Judge McDowell informs us that there were but two young ladies within a distance of fifty miles up and down the Vermilion, but this condition of things did not long exist, for the year 1833 saw a considerable influx of new families. In this year, Dr. John Davis settled near the present residence of Philip Rollins. He was the first physician in the county, and had the medical practice, without a rival, for some time. About the same time came Daniel Rockwood and the Weeds, Henry, E. F. and James, also John Recob, John Johnson, the Murry family, Squire Hayes, John Chew, Daniel Barackman, John Downey, Joseph Reynolds, and his brothers.

The Government had just removed the Kickapoo west of the Mississippi, and Franklin Oliver, this year permanently located at Kickapoo Grove, which since that date, has borne his name. The Indian trouble was now forever settled, so far as this country was concerned, the hardest trials were past and a brighter day was dawning; but the old settler never grows weary of talking about this period, and of recounting his trials and exploits.

Among the number whose recollection is perfectly unimpaired, is John Johnson, of Rook's Creek. He was born in Ontario County, New York, and came to Shawneetown, in this state, as early as 1821. There were only some fifty white persons in the county when Johnson settled here, and he knew them all. He calculates that he and his sons have killed over a thousand deer within the limits of the county. In the fall hunt of 1834, they killed seventy-five and took the skins and hams to Ottawa, and received for them the sum of sixty dollars--a large amount of money in those days.

Franklin Oliver, although in his ninety-second year, still retains his faculties in a wonderful degree, and is a walking encyclopedia of facts pertaining to the early settlement; also Emsley Pope (whose history will receive further mention) together with James and Woodford G. McDowell and Major Darnall are

still with us, their minds and memories unimpaired.

Frederick Rook, the old pioneer, after whom Rook's Creek Township is named, is described by James McDowell, as a well-made, fat-faced, easy-natured and accommodating German, and not at all such a character as has been described in later days. He had a wife and family, and, at the date of his departure, his eldest daughter, Mary, was seventeen years old. He frequently deplored the lack of facilities for giving his children an education, and it is stated that this was the cause of his removing from the county at an early day. He was a capital shot, a generous provider for his family, and altogether a worthy man; and the aspersions cast upon his character are without any foundation in fact, and may be considered as false.

The nearest post office at this time was at Bloomington; but as James McDowell says, they did not take a daily paper or write many love letters in those days; they managed to live with a post office even at that distance. They took their grain fifty miles, with an ox team, to a mill owned and run by John Green, on the other side of Ottawa; and, after hauling it that distance, they frequently had to wait a day or two for their turn, and it never happened that a man went to mill, called around by the post office and returned home on the same day.

Among some of the earliest settlers were Truman Rutherford, John Foster, James Holman, William K. Brown, Judge Breckenridge, Amos Edwards, and Andrew McDowell, of Long Point; Walter Cornell, Andrew Sprague, Joel B. Anderson, H. Steers, Isaac Burgit, John Darnall, John Travis, J. W. Reynolds, Charles Jones, Philip Rollins, John Marks, James Demoss, Benjamin Hieronymous, and the Garner brothers.

It was several years before the pioneers erected a church edifice, but they were not heathens. For miles around, the community would, on a Sunday, assemble at the house of John Terhune, who possessed a book of sermons, and who would read to them on these occasions. Terhune was a man of education, who quietly came among these pioneers, and, after remaining a few years, departed as he came. His destination was not known and the date of his departure is not fixed; and, as he was of a retiring and unobtrusive disposition, but few facts concerning him can be obtained.

In 1834, William Royle, a Methodist preacher, established a mission in this locality; but, as his circuit embraced such distant points as Waupansie, Ottawa and Mazon, he could only hold service here on a week day; yet men would leave their work and come ten and even fifteen miles to attend religious service.

In the fall of the year, the whole community--men, women and children--would yoke up their ox teams and go over to Mackinaw to attend camp meeting. This was considered the event of the year, and was eagerly anticipated by the people, who had not many opportunities of enjoying each other's society and forming new acquaintances. Joseph C. Morrison, of Avoca Township, and now one of the wealthiest and most respected citizens of the county, was, at this period, one of the rising young men of the community. He says that the enjoyment of these trips could only be appreciated by a community placed in like circumstances.

Yet these pioneers were not without their amusements and recreations; but they generally contrived to combine business with pleasure. James McDowell came twelve miles, with his father, to assist in raising the first cabin that was erected in Pontiac; and he remembers it as a day given to pleasure.

Another popular amusement was to assemble the community for the "grand circular hunt." Having

selected the territory, which embraced as large a tract as the number of hunters could command, they placed themselves in a circle on the outside, and drove the game toward a common center. The game thus encircled consisted mainly of wolves and deer, which were always captured or killed in great numbers. The hunt, and especially the closing up of the circle, was exciting in the extreme and no small amount of skill was displayed in the manner of disposing of the animals as they attempted to break through the lines of their persecutors.

The state paid a bounty for wolf scalps in those days, and this was a source of revenue to the settlers.

On one occasion, while Nicholas Heffner was both Sheriff and Tax-collector for the county, and Washington Boyer was School Commissioner, Heffner was taken sick and requested James McDowell to go to Springfield for him and make the trip, called on him and requested that he should bring back with him, from Springfield, the amount from the state school fund.

McDowell mounted his horse and taking a huge bag of legal tender, in the shape of wolf scalps, before him, set out on his journey and, arrived at the state capital, he not only paid the entire amount due the state in wolf scalps, but exchanged a sufficient number of the remainder with the state treasurer, to cover the amount coming to the county from the school fund. Notwithstanding this remarkable instance of the profit derived from rearing wolves, their propagation is now entirely neglected in this county, and a wolf found occasionally is viewed as an object of curiosity.

James McDowell still flourishes in his pristine vigor, though upward of 60 years old. He owns over 2,100 acres of choice farming land in the vicinity where he first located, and is enjoying the competence he has so justly earned.

It is a matter of wonder to many now living in the county, how the pioneers managed to live and rear large families where there was no money in the country, and no market for produce. In the first place, they did not go in debt, for they could not do so; then game was abundant, and if it would not bring a price, it filled a very important place in the household economy. They raised their own coffee, which was prepared from parched corn; they made their own sugar, and as for store tea, that was dispensed with. Then, again, a dealer from some of the earlier settled portions of the state, would occasionally ride through this region on horseback, and purchase a few steers at a very low price, but a little money went a great way with the fathers. Deer skins and the skins and furs of smaller animals always brought cash when they could be got to market, and occasionally a pioneer would collect these and push through to some distant point, and, disposing of them, return with their value in money.

The introduction of a few sheep by Maj. Darnall helped matters very much. The carding, spinning and weaving were done at home, and cost no money. This industry was first introduced into the community by the good wives of Maj. Darnall and A. B. Phillips, and was soon copied by other matrons. Taxes were very low; and if a settler of this period received from all sources an income of $15 or $20 per annum, he had sufficient to pay his cash expenses. The amount of money now paid for a new bonnet, or a spring overcoat, would have sufficed to support a family at that time for six months. There were few schools for the children and they were required to help carry on the farm work, and everything was made to count for what it was worth.

But what was already a difficult financial problem was made doubly so by the general crash which the year 1837 brought to all business and monetary affairs.

During the very year that saw our county legally organized, the State Legislature passed the bill for

internal improvement at public expense; and on the passage of this suicidal law, near ten millions of dollars were appropriated for building a network of railroads all over the state, and work was actually commenced on them at various points. The scheme bankrupted the state, and, for nineteen years, Illinois paid neither principal nor interest on her indebtedness.

Emigrants avoided a state thus incumbered; and one chief source of ready money (that brought by new comers) was denied to us. But the pioneers of Livingston, in this extremity, showed pluck and energy worthy of record. There being no market for anything in the interior of the state, they, with their ox-teams, hauled their produce to Chicago, and even drove their hogs across the pathless prairie to that point.

Joseph C. Morrison, who frequently made the trip with a drove of hogs, tells us that it was accomplished in the following manner: A number of farmers would collect their hogs and start on the journey, agreeing to feed the hogs at night by turns, each in succession returning to his home for a load of corn, from which the hogs were fed upon his again coming up with the drove; and thus, by relieving each other, they accomplished what would otherwise have been an impossible task.

When the slaughter house was reached, the hogs were dressed for the offal, and the dressed hogs were put upon the market; those weighing 200 and over generally selling at $1.50 per hundred, and those weighing less at $1.00 per hundred. A farmer made but one such trip during the year, and brought home with him the absolute necessities of life.

The first mill erected in the county was run by horse power. It was built by Garrett M. Blue, near his residence, in Rook's Creek Township. This was justly considered by the early settlers, as a most valuable acquisition to the institutions of the county. The bolting was done by tacking a yard of fine muslin on a frame, and through this was rubbed, by hand, small portions of the crushed wheat.

In 1838, the saw-mill at Pontiac was erected by C. H. Perry and James McKee, but a grist-mill was not attached for some years.

John Foster, who resides with his son Robert, at Pontiac, is the oldest settler in that part of the county. He reached that point from Cayuga County, New York, in 1836. Two deserted cabins were then the only buildings on the site of the now flourishing city. The land was then considered too low and swampy to be habitable. Foster saw the town laid out, and took the contract for building the first Court House, the price agreed upon being $800. The building is still standing near the M. E. Church, and is owned by Jacob Streatmer and leased to the city for various purposes. Foster also kept the first hotel and in the early days, he entertained the attorneys, juries and litigants to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

In order to maintain his reputation as landlord he would, when a term of the Circuit court was approaching, go out into the country and borrow bedsteads, beds and bedding, and what crockery there was to loan. This manner of procedure worked very well for a time, but on one occasion, the portly Judge David Davis, who had perhaps retired to rest with a heavy case on his mind, occupied one of the borrowed bedsteads, and he quashed it. The Judge was rescued from the debris by friendly hands; but the bedstead, as a bedstead, had lost its usefulness, and thereafter Foster found some difficulty in inducing his neighbors to loan furniture.

Foster, on these occasions, entertained Douglas, Lincoln, and other distinguished lawyers, for the attorneys followed the judge from county to county. Lincoln, during one term of court paid his hotel

bill by attending to a suit, in which Foster, as Constable, was concerned in the replevin of some goods taken on execution. Lincoln gained the case, and Uncle John formed a high opinion of his new boarder. Foster's recollections of these early days are vivid and interesting.

The amounts of revenue levied and collected during the first four years of the county's existence, commencing with the year 1837, are as follows: First year, $113.71; second year, $109.80; third year, $180.56; and the fourth year, $166.26.

When it is recorded that the levy in the county for the yearWhen it is recorded that the levy in the county for the year 1877 is about $400,000, the figures in the former years are as astonishing as the figures in the latter year are astounding.

The first post office was that established in Pontiac, in 1837, and Cornelius W. Reynolds was the first Postmaster.

Letter postage was then twenty-five cents, payable either on mailing the letter or at the office where it was received.

No inconsiderable number of letters came to the office unpaid, and such was the scarcity of money that some of them would remain in the office for weeks and even months, before they could be taken out and paid for.

Martin A. Newman was the first Route Agent. He traveled on horseback from Ottawa to Bloomington, by way of Pontiac and Lexington, and made a trip in two weeks.

The first Court House was erected under the county judgeship of Billings P. Babcock, and was as good a building as could be erected at that time for the money expended. Judge Babcock gave the same particular care to every item of its material and construction that he displays in his own financial affairs.

The previous year, Judge Henry Jones erected, at Pontiac, the first brick building ever erected in the county. It is the one that has recently been remodeled, and is now occupied as a residence by Joseph P. Turner. The brick of which it was composed were purchased at Bloomington and hauled to Pontiac; and, in stipulating with the contractors, Judge Babcock required the brick to be of as good quality as the material used in the building of this house. This opened up a new industry, and the first bricks were made during the same year.

The building was two stories high, having offices for the Circuit Clerk, County Clerk, Sheriff and Treasurer on the first floor, and the court room and jury room on the second floor. In 1871, a fire-proof vault, in an added wing, was completed.
On the 4th day of July, 1874, this building was destroyed by fire, together with Union Block and the Phoenix Hotel.

The present Court House was erected the following year, and was completed in the month of December, and dedicated by the first Old Settlers' meeting. This structure is one of the finest in the State. J. C. Cochrane, of Chicago, was the architect, and the contract for building was awarded to Colvin, Clark & Co., of Ottawa.

To the Building Committee of the Board of Supervisors is due an honorable mention for the honest and

satisfactory manner in which they discharged their duty in this connection. The names of these gentlemen were James E. Morrow, Edson Wilder, Jacob Phillips, E. G. Greenwood, Wm. S. Sims and J. P. Parsons. The entire cost of the building and furniture was $75,000.

The first jail was built at Pontiac in 1866. Previous to that time, the prisoners of the county were kept at Joliet, Ottawa, or Bloomington, where such conveniences of civilization existed. In that year, a good substantial stone jail was erected at the cost of $18,000.

The first county election was at the residence of Andrew McMillan, a mile northwest from Rudd's Mill, on the north bank of the Vermilion.

The first County Commissioners and the first Sheriff performed the duties of their offices without any authority from the State, and, as they are all dead, the manner in which they obtained any authority to act will, perhaps, remain a mystery.

The ancient archives of the county contain no certificate of election or other evidence that they held their offices by virtue of either election or appointment. The records of the Secretary of State, have also been ransacked to discover, if possible, a clue of the matter; but nothing appears to indicate that either these or any other officers, previous to 1838, were legally qualified to act. In this year, Nicholas Hefner was duly elected and qualified to act as Sheriff.

It is known, however, that the form of an election had been observed, and that Joseph Reynolds had been declared Sheriff, and the Board of Commissioners had appointed him Collector of Taxes; and as no one desired to hold office in those days, no investigation committee inquired into the irregularity. The first marriage license issued in the county was made out by H. W. Beard, Clerk of County Commissions Court, and it was, no doubt, intended to authorize Mr. Williamson Spence and Miss Mary Darnall to solemnize a marriage; but so far as the record goes, it only authorized the marriage of Williamson to Miss Darnall; so that so far as the record has anything to do with the descendants of Spence are all Williamsons. It is not improbable that this clerk—H. W. Beard—was an old bachelor, and took delight in mutilating marriage licenses; for the next license authorized Simeon Mad, instead of Simeon Madden, to marry Elizabeth Rutherford.

Since that period, 6,000 marriages have been authorized by the various County Clerks.

Samuel C. Ladd came to Pontiac from Connecticut in October, 1842. Only two houses remain in Pontiac, which had been erected previous to his coming. One of these, is the old Court House, and the other is the building now occupied by Samuel Mossholder as a dwelling. Seth W. Young was the first man to erect a house on the site of the city of Pontiac. He died at this place, as also did his brother, Lucius Young. They were interested with Henry Weed in securing the location of the county seat at this point, and after their death, C. H. Perry, Henry Stephens, Samuel C. Ladd and others became interested.

C. H. Perry brought the first stock of goods to the county, but before he was established in business, S. C. Ladd bought him out. About this time, Mr. Ladd entered into partnership with Willet Gray, and they purchased James McKees's interest in the mill. Their store stood on the banks of the river near where Robett Aerl's feed yard now is. Ladd soon after erected a frame business building on the present site of Gunsul's Livery stable; and, for several years, he and Gray, were the only resident merchants of the county.

These merchants secured the services of John A. Fellows as salesman, and he was so popular that it was

said of him that “he drew all the trade of the Vermilion Valley, and would have drawn more if the valley had been longer” C. H. Perry was then the capitalist. He brought to the place the first piano, the first “store carpet” and the first looking glass. His residence was a log cabin, and it used to be told how a horse once walked in at the open door, and stood surveying himself in Perry’s looking glass, while he fought flies with his natural protector. The piano remained the only musical instrument of its kind in the county until Perry removed to Iowa and took it with him, and it was many years before its place was filled.

Samuel C. Ladd was, at once, an able and popular man. He has held the offices of Circuit Clerk, County Clerk, Recorder and Postmaster; and, in later years, he was appointed Assessor of Internal Revenue and filled the office acceptably, from 1863 to 1869.

Emsley Pope, the pioneer of Newtown, was born in Rowan County, North Carolina, in the year 1797, and removed with his father to Champaign County, Ohio, in 1810. His father enlisted in the war of 1812, but was prevented from serving by sickness. Young Pope, then but 15 years of age, begged permission to go as his father’s substitute, and, permission being given, he shouldered his musket and served during the war.

When peace was restored, he resided with his father until 1836, when he was married and came to this state, and located upon the identical piece of ground upon which he has ever since resided. His house, a double log cabin, erected forty-three years ago, still serves him for a residence; and, with the exception of repairs to the roof, it has remained without alteration from the date of its erection to the present time. The only tools used in its construction were an axe, a saw and an auger. The boards composing the roof are held in place by logs upon them, through which wooden pins are passed into the rafters. The flooring is also secured by wooden pins, as are also the door and window frames. The flooring and ceiling were hewn out; and the chimney was built of stone taken from the stream near by.

Pope’s Spring, from which hundreds of red men have slaked their thirst, furnishes the family with an abundant supply of excellent water.

For a number of years after his arrival, his family, together with the families of Daniel Barrackman, Samuel Brumfield and Amos Lundy constituted the entire community. Their market was Chicago.

In the fall of the year, Pope, Brumfield, Barrackman and Lundy would form a company for mutual benefit and protection; and each man, with his rifle and ox-team drawing a load of corn, would start for this distant market, making calculations to be absent from home for ten or twelve days. On the route, the company camped where night overtook them, and they never slept under a roof from the time of their departure to the time of their return. There was at that time not even an Indian trail leading from that point to Chicago, but these pioneers took their way over the unbroken prairie, guided by signs and indications which never led them astray. Thirty bushels of corn was their average load; and for this, on their arrival at market, they received 12 and one-half cents per bushel, and only on one or two occasions did they receive as high as 15 cents. They rarely made more than two such trips in a year; and the $6, $8, or $10 which they thus received was all the money they handled during the year, and most of this was spent in purchasing supplies in Chicago.

Pope was intimately acquainted with old Shabbona, the Pattawatomie chief, and holds his memory in great respect, and says that no white man was more welcome at his cabin than this Indian.

This kindly feeling was doubtless reciprocated on the part of the red man, for he frequently pitched his

tent near Pope's cabin, on his hunting excursions along the banks of the Vermilion.

Wild turkeys and deer abounded, and when Chief Shabbona was successful in the chase, the spoils were generously divided with his white friend; and his coming was looked forward to with pleasant anticipations of a good time, and his departure was regretted.

SECOND WALTON BROS. store stood on same site as present building. It burned in 1896.

Fairbury Has First Newspaper

John Harper, the great newspaper starter, commenced the publication of the INTELLIGENCER at Fairbury, in 1863, which soon suspended; and Moses Osman published a paper for awhile.

In 1866, H. S. Decker commenced the publication of the JOURNAL at Fairbury. He soon after sold to I. P. McDowell, and he to Otis Eastman, in 1867, who continued to publish it until 1873.

In April, 1871, The Dimmicks commenced the publication of the INDEPENDENT at Fairbury, and in 1876, when J. S. Scibird became proprietor, and combined the two, with the title of INDEPENDENT-BLADE, which he publishes yet.

The press of the county has ever been marked by an intelligent and earnest desire to promote public

morals and the general welfare of the county. There has been an almost universal absence of personal animosity which so frequently mars the conduct of rival papers. A generous rivalry has not awakened personal hostility, and the general fairness has seldom been broken. The men who have formed the editorial fraternity have been usually worthy men, whose influence has been for good! This is particularly true of those who are at present conducting this powerful and wide-spreading department of intelligence. Who can estimate the amount of good they have and can yet accomplish? The first telegraphic dispatch ever received in the county was on election night of 1856, giving the news of the election of Buchanan. The LIVINGSTON COUNTY NEWS the next morning contained full telegraphic news of the result of the election from all over the country. It was to all a mystery how the news was obtained, for it was not supposed that the NEWS was able to pay for all that telegraphic matter. A friend who had somewhere learned how to read the wires supplied the enterprising publishers with them, and that night they were put in type as fast as received.

Describes Early Farming Methods

The way our fathers performed their farming operations is so little known to the present generation, who depend so much on improved farm machinery and require their horses to do all the work which men, women and children formerly did, that a description of the olden way cannot prove uninteresting.

Banish reapers, mowers, corn planters, sulky plows, wire-tooth horse rakes, double-shoveled plows, horse hay forks, threshing machines, grapevine cradles, and a conception can be formed of the primitive farming facilities. Corn was “got in” both ways — one way with a small, eight-inch mold-board plow, and the other by a “marker” made of scantling, having on it four blicks or pegs, which would mark three rows at a time (if one happened to have so convenient an article, otherwise the land was marked out both ways with the corn plow).

This marker had attached to it a pair of shafts, and a bowed sapling for a handle. If the horse was “handy,” and tractable, the marking could be done without the aid of a rider; but horses were so seldom driven single that the boys, who had most of this kind of work to do, could not manage them well enough to perform the work without a rider, so a “low-priced boy” was usually put astride the horse, who rode as long as the sheepskin, which reduced the terrors of bareback riding, and his unwilling seat could be induced to continue an unhappy partnership, when he was exchanged for a new recruit.

Ah, the horrors of this ad sternum service! Boys who think riding horses is “just fun” should try the experiment of a week’s experience during marking-out and corn plowing time, and endeavor to ascertain just how much fun can be extracted from it.

After marking, all the children were taken out of school for a week to “drop” corn. The ancient farmer who was so unfortunate as to have no grist of children was in a bad row to stumps.

This may account for the tendency to large families so common in past years. They had work for the children to do in those days, and Nature is kindly disposed to supply the wants of population.

Corn dropping was done from little tin pails or baskets held in the hand, or buttoned into the clothing in front, or fastened by a belt around the waist. The covering was done with a hoe having an eye into which the handle was put. This was a tedious job compared with our present plan, but “tending” the growing crop was still more tedious. “Plowing out” was all done with one horse, using the small mold-board, or a single-shovel plow, when again the small boy was frequently made to earn his bread by the sweat of his----body.

“Changing work” was a common device. While one farmer was getting in a crop, another would assist him, and then return the work.

The harvesting and securing of the small grain crops were even more tedious.

The hay was all cut with a scythe and raked into windrows with a hand rake; the grain cut with the old straight handled cradle, and raked into bundles with a hand rake. Threshing wheat was done with a flail, and other grains were trod out by keeping a troop of unshod horses circulating over it, each flooring requiring about an hour. Where grain raising was largely followed, “harvest hands” were scarce, and they often demanded and received two or three times as much for that as for any other kind of farm work. To swing a cradle all day was thought to be as laborious work and calling for as good pay as anything to be done, and he who could “rake and bind” and follow a cradle, keeping up his swath, need not tramp for a living during harvest time at least.

It is not easy to see how, with corn at from six to ten cents per bushel, oats little more, wheat from thirty to sixty cents, and other crops in proportion, the farmer succeeded in getting enough from the proceeds of his crop to pay for the labor he was obliged to hire. It is not difficult to understand why the best land that “ever lay out-doors” remained for so long without purchasers.

Of course the farmers in those days did not ride in carriages, nor pay heavy taxes, nor buy luxuries, nor pay hotel bills when they traveled, nor dress themselves and families in “store clothes,” but some of them lived comfortably. How did they do it?

SENIOR CLASS OF 1914 is shown here in their graduation picture. They are, left to right, back row: Lorraine Wilson; Esther Guthrie Jessup, Elizabeth Fuessley, Etta Fuessley Carter, Mae Horine (deceased), Kathryn Loughran, Helen Eckhart, Marguerite Frye, Marie Banks.

Second row: Dorothy Crouch, Anna Householder, Bessie Dye, Beatrice Dexter Gahwiler, Fern Scharlock, Esther Williams (deceased), Maurine Lewis Metz, Agnes Hazel and Ethel Ramsey.

Front row: Earl Zook, Laurence Back, Fred Churchill (deceased), Edgar Best, Hempstead Bull, Van Wharton (deceased), William Goudy (deceased), and Dean Voorhees.

Livingston Co. Once Part Of Cook Co.

The territory which is now Livingston County was, in the first division of the State, a portion of Cook County. After that, it became a portion of Vermilion County, and hence the name of the river which flows through it, which had no other reason for its name, either it is the color of its water or its surroundings. Subsequently, in the organization of those counties, nearly all of it became portions of McLean and LaSalle, though a portion remained attached to Vermilion until this organization. By act of the Legislature, approved and in force, February 27, 1837, Livingston was created a county with its present boundaries. Its name was suggested by Jesse W. Fell, and was due to the popular esteem in which Edward Livingston was held, in consequence of his being the reputed author of President Jackson's famous proclamation of the South Carolina nullifiers in their first unsuccessful attempt to disrupt the Union.

In the act of organization, James W. Piatt, of Macon County; William B. Peck, of Will County, and Thompson S. Flint, of Tazewell County, were appointed Commissioners to locate the permanent seat of justice; and they were to take into consideration the convenience of the people, and the situations of the settlements, with an eye to the future population.

Edward Livingston was a native of New York, and one of the prominent Livingston family of that State. He removed to New Orleans on account of his health, and became a leading lawyer of that city. He was appointed, by President Jackson, Minister to England, and was recalled to take the position of Secretary of State, when Jackson re-organized his Cabinet, in consequence of his quarrel with Calhoun. He was popularly credited with being the author of the proclamation which "Old Hickory" sent out against the South Carolinians, when they adopted the ordinance of nullification. No more worthy name could have been selected for this great county than the one popularly identified with Jackson's stern determination to maintain this Union under all circumstances.

Sheep Once Chief Stock Industry Here

At one period of the history of the county, sheep were largely raised; and during the war, the high price of wool stimulated the spread of this branch of husbandry unduly. Particularly was this true of the fine-wooled varieties. With the close of rebellious hostilities, prices fell and disease began to spread among the sheep. Losses were terrible, and sheep husbandry disappeared from the county. There are now only a few of the middle wooled sheep kept, and they seem to be comparatively remunerative.

Late years have shown a decided improvement in horses. The importation of Clydesdale, Belgian, and Norman horses into the county has awakened a lively interest in that line. The peculiar nature of corn farming calls more for strength and endurance than for speed and action. The farmer reasons that two horses are better than three to draw a plow, if they can draw it as well. The heavy work with corn raisers is plowing and hauling corn to market, and both of these require heavy horses.

The time was when the cattle which roamed over these prairies showed distinctly the dun, black, brindle, and yellow colors characteristic of the native cattle. Now the short horns have so changed the general appearance of the herds that these colors are seldom seen. The entire "constitution" of the horned cattle has been reformed—nobody breeds or cares to breed anything else. The hog crop now cuts so important a figure in the economy of the county, that much care has lately been taken to secure the very best breeds for profit. The Chester White gradually gave way to the Poland China, and that in

turn to the Berkshire, which is now the popular, not to say the fashionable color.

The importation of Norman horses directly from France is largely due to the active business management of John Virgin, Esq., of Fairbury. In 1870, Virgin, J. C. Morrison, and Decatur Veatch formed a partnership for that business. Mr. Virgin was sent out, and brought home the first venture of that kind. That partnership was soon dissolved by the death of Mr. Veatch, but Virgin has continued the business of importation.

Of kin to the subject is the organization of Agricultural Societies. The county society, now known as the Livingston County Agricultural Board, was formed in 1855 by a few citizens. It owns a fine fair ground on the bank of the river at Pontiac, which is beautifully shaded with native trees, and has a fine half-mile track on it.

The Fairbury Union Agricultural Society was formed in 1875, as a stock company, and owns a fine ground at Fairbury. These two stimulate a generous rivalry, and are the means of vast good to the cause in the county.

How Townships Got Names

The curious may want to know who named and why the townships came to be named as they are. There is almost always a reason for any name. An investigator once discovered, by close study, how there came to be so many Smiths in the world. He said, after the Lord had thought of all conceivable names to give the different families, He decided to call the remainder Smith.

The investigator has been among the townships. Reading was so named from the little village in its borders, which received its name from old Reading, in Pennsylvania. Newtown was but a slight change from New Michigan, a little hamlet in that township, named so in consequence of its being settled by Michigan folks. Sunbury, from the post office of that name in the township, the present Western State of that name, just then drawing attention. Dwight, from the village of Dwight, which was named by Col. R. P. Morgan, Jr., an engineer on the Chicago & Mississippi Railroad, in honor of his friend, Henry Dwight, the builder of the road. Round Grove, from a small grove in its borders. Long Point, from the stream and point of timber in it. Esmen was named by Judge Babcock. It is the first person plural of the Greek verb to be, and means “we are the chaps,” or words to that effect. Odell was named by S. S. Morgan, after W. H. Odell of Wilmington.

Groughton from and by Wm. Broughton, the first settler there. Nebraska, by Reuben Macey, from the then prominence of “Nebraska Bill,” who proved to be a very important personage in the affairs of this county. Rook’s Creek, from the stream named in Mich., where the first settlers had moved from. Saunemin is a mystery: the last man living who ever knew how it derived its name, and what it means, forgot it. Sullivan, an abbreviation for Sullivant, who, at the time it was named, owned half the town. Waldo, by Parker Jewett, who named it from his old home, Waldo, Maine. Eppard’s Point, from the point of timber land in it. Indian Grove, from the grove in that township. Forrest was first named Forestville by the railroad men, who there encountered, in building, the only piece of timber land for fifty miles on their road. Frost, the President of the company, came along one day, and said it should be changed to Forrest, the name of his New York partner, and railroad Presidents were a power in those days. Chatsworth, by the officers of the railroad company, from the country seat of the Duke of Devonshire. Germantown, by the German settlement in that township.

Livingston Always Chiefly Devoted to Farming Pursuits

This has been and still remains pre-eminently a farming county, very little manufacturing ever having been done here. The citizens send abroad for their clothes, their plows and farm machinery, for their boots, shoes, cheese, many of their wagons, and even in a measure for hams and bacon. Since the farm lands have come into general cultivation, it has been pre-eminently a corn raising county. It is believed that more corn is now raised and shipped from this than from any county in the country. In the earlier years, Winter wheat was largely and profitably grown; cases occurred where the farmer paid for his farm and implements from his single crop of wheat. It soon became an uncertain crop, and was gradually abandoned. The growing of spring wheat did not long continue after it had been destroyed a few years by the chinch bug, and flour and wheat have become one of the principal imports into the county. Oats remain a standard crop, and give a fair yield. In the northwestern part of the county timothy is largely raised for seed, it being in great demand in the Eastern States by reason of its freedom from foul seeds which are found in that raised in older States. In the southeast, flax is a favorite crop and its growth is extending. Rye is raised by many farmers, by reason of the certainty of its yield and because its sowing and harvest occur at a time when other work is not pressing, and that is the best crop to seed with, now that wheat had been abandoned, and oats are apt to grow so rank as to smother the young grass plants.

Corn, however, is the only real staple article of farm production. The county is in the very center of the corn growing belt; the land is better adapted to its production, the land is not liable to wash, and may be kept annually under plow without deterioration. The perfection of farm machinery has reduced the cost of production of this crop to the minimum. The rapidity with which it makes returns, the security with which it can be stored a year or more, the importance of the hog crop, and the cheapness with which it can be marketed in that shape, are all inducements to raising corn. Besides these are reasons found in the needs of the citizens. The population is largely made up of men with small means, who purchased small farms, but had not sufficient capital to fence and stock them for varied agriculture. Under the stimulus of the no-fence law, adopted in 1867, these open prairies were plowed and planted in corn, without a rod of fence on them for there was no necessity for fencing their farms and dividing into fields.

Among the newer settled townships, there are those which have more than four-fifths of all their land annually in corn; pastures are rare, and herds of cattle are not seen. Time will change this, however, in a measure; but the great staple will remain the principal article of production.

In the year 1877, the production of corn, by the report of the State Board of Agriculture is put down at 10,930,000 bushels. It is believed that no other county in the world raised so much.

Fruits are receiving much attention. Apples, every where the staple, are becoming an important product. It will be a long time, however, before they will be found in great abundance on all farms. The borer and the blight make havoc with the young trees; latterly, the severe winters have ruined many, old and young, besides which, the system of farming practiced is a great hindrance to growing orchards. With few or no cross fences on the farms, the cattle roam at will among the trees during the winter and early spring.

The blight has left but few pear trees growing in the county. Peaches are an uncertain crop.

Grapes produce abundantly and regularly; indeed, no crop is so certain of producing a fair return. The

Concord grape is as easily raised as corn, and more sure of a crop.

Small fruits are fast popularizing, where only a few years ago they were only found in the garden or on the plantation of the horticulturist.

The Snyder blackberry, by reason of its ability to stand our severest winters, and not being injured by spring frosts, is fast being planted; all other varieties are too uncertain.

CITY HALL IN this picture looks much like it does today, but cars parked on the unpaved streets date back some 35 to 40 years ago.

Indian Trails To All-Weather County Roads

(The Blade, July 21, 1937)

From a few straggling Indian trails to over 1,380 miles of all-weather roads--that is Livingston county's achievement in highway development.

The deep black soil makes the poorest sort of roads. Even after 1900, farmers were unable to get a wagon or carriage through the spring mud, and shopping trips to town had to be made on horseback.

Old letters relate that "buggies" would be stuck fast in the mire of Pontiac streets. Unable to move them, their owners would leave them till summer and then pry them out of the caked, hard ground with crowbars.

Autos Bring Change

With the coming of automobiles after the turn of the century, the need for all-weather roads became more pressing and the first expedient tried was to grade and oil the highways. This system was partly satisfactory, but proved too costly in labor and money, for the work had to be repeated each year.

The real development of good highways in the county has come since the war, when the first concrete and gravel were laid. The first extensive system of cement highways was begun in Gov. Frank O. Lowden's administration and the present route 66 was laid from north to south across the county at that time.

Subsequent building of hard roads under Governors Louis Emmerson, Len Small and Henry Horner has increased the total concrete highways in the county to 187 miles of brick road stretching across Pontiac township from east to west.

Cement Was Not Enough

The cement roads were a benefit to through traffic, but they reached only a small proportion of the farmers, all of whom needed all-weather highways by which they could reach their market centers.

Gravel and crushed stone have proved the answer to this problem, and the work of surfacing with these materials has been going forward at an ever increasing pace during the past several years.

The very earliest hard surfaced roads in the county were in Reading and Newtown townships. The first stone roads in Reading were constructed by convict labor from the prison at Joliet. In 1917, Newtown pioneered the use of a bond issue for financing hard surfaced roads. Crushed stone was used for this job from the Lehigh Stone company at Kankakee. In 1927, Rooks Creek was the first township to use gravel under a bond issue.

The gravel pit near Fairbury operated by the Churchill Gravel Co. has furnished most of the gravel for county roads. All crushed stone comes from the Pontiac Stone Co.; the Lehigh Stone Co.; or the National and Lincoln Stone companies of Joliet.

Costs $2,400 Per Mile.

Cost of the surfacing material averages about $1.50 per cubic yard spread on the road. By spreading the material 12 feet wide and eight inches deep, it costs approximately $2,400 to gravel a mile of road.

Of the 2,029 miles of highway in the county, 1,187 are surfaced with either gravel or stone.

"Money to pay for grading roads comes from three sources--county funds, motor fuel tax and 15-d refund," George Caviezel, county superintendent of highways, said in describing the work of his department. The "15-d refund" is money returned by the state to pay for local improvements previously made on state roads.

"If county money is used, no surveys or plans are needed. The county equipment grades and puts the roads in shape for a surface material. If motor fuel tax or 15-d refund money is used, surveys have to be made and plans have to be drawn. Plans and estimates are submitted to the state highways department

at Springfield for approval.

Use Day Labor.

“All grading is done by day labor. When the grade is approved by the state, bids are taken for the surfacing material. At all county lettings for work done with motor fuel tax or 15-d refund money, a representative from the state highway department is present and the contract is awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

“In spreading the gravel,” Caviezel continued, “the contractor uses a mechanical spreader. It is usually drawn by a tractor and spreads the gravel to the desired width and thickness. An inspector is always present on the job to see that the contractor adheres to all the specifications in his contract; and an inspector is always present at the gravel pit to test the material as it is loaded into the truck.

“The county has not enough equipment with which to hire some township commissioners to help in maintenance. The county had day labor gangs to maintain ditches, shoulders and culverts.

“All maintenance on motor fuel tax sections is paid with motor fuel tax maintenance money, and maintenance on county sections is paid with county money. All township roads are maintained by township commissioners.”

Department Organized in 1913

The Livingston county highway department had its origin in 1913 when it became necessary for the county to comply with some of the technical provisions of the new good road law relating to bridge contracts. Consequently on September 11, 1913, R. W. Osborn was appointed county superintendent of highways and served until September 15, 1917, when he resigned.

Glenn D. Butzer was appointed temporary superintendent on October 18, 1917, and his appointment was made permanent February 12 of the next year. He served until his death, November 14, 1935.

George H. Caviezel, present superintendent, had been working for Butzer since July, 1933, and on Butzer’s death was named temporary superintendent. The appointment was made permanent on March 11, 1936. Caviezel is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin.

Draw All Plans Here.

All plans for bridges and roads are drawn in the highway office here and necessary blueprints are also made. In addition to the superintendent, the highway department employs Samuel H. Bergstrom, Wayne E. Denker and J. Lloyd O’Bryan on the office staff.

Bergstrom is also county surveyor. His work in this capacity entails making surveys for private individuals and is not connected with the highway department.

This Year’s Program

With $240,500 being spent in ten townships for 181 miles of gravel and crushed stone, this summer will see greater progress in the improvement of Livingston county highways than for many years past. The contracts have all been let and work has either been completed or is now under way.

Details of the improvements in each township are as follows: Waldo — William Roth, commissioner. Bond issue of $55,000 for 36 miles. Nebraska — John Wuebbens, commissioner. Bond issue of $12,000 for eight miles. Rooks Creek — Bert Hidenrick, commissioner. Bond issue of $12,000 for 18 miles. Newtown — Lloyd Decker, commissioner. Bond issue of $40,000 for 34 miles. Esmen — Irvin Casson, commissioner. Bond issue of $20,000 for 14 miles. Eppards Point — Joe Green, commissioner. Special tax of $4,000 for four miles. Owego — John Branz, commissioner. Bond issue of $12,000 for 22 miles. Odell — Fred Heath, commissioner. Bond issue of $5,000 for four miles and special tax of $2,500 for two miles. Germanville — Ray McGreal, commissioner. Bond issue of $30,000 for 25 miles. Sullivan — William Fraher, commissioner. Bond issue of $35,000 for 14 miles.

WHO IS THIS HAPPY young man peacefully fishing one summer day in 1916. If you guessed N. J. Claudon, you're right.

Co. Participation In Civil War

No history of the county would be complete without at least brief mention of the part taken by her patriotic citizens in the struggle to maintain the unity and the honor of the Government.

By the census of 1840, the county had a population of 759, which had increased in 1860 to 12,000. Out of this number, scarce 1800 were subject to military duty; yet Livingston County sent over 1,500 soldiers to the field. Fields of ripened grain were left to be harvested by women and children. Pastors of churches exhorted their parishioners to take up arms, and set them an example by placing their own names on the muster-roll; clerks threw down the yard-stick to shoulder the musket, and, in several instances, even those holding public offices resigned their positions and went forward with their constituents to battle for the right.

The One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Illinois Volunteers was organized at Pontiac, and for some time camped on the old Fair Grounds, just south of the city. Five full companies were raised in this county, four in Scott, and one in Moline, Rock Island County. Half of its regimental officers were from Livingston County.

And when the regiment entered the service it was officered as follows: Colonel, George P. Smith, of Dwight; Major, A. J. Cropsey, of Fairbury; Adjutant, Philip D. Platenburg, of Pontiac; Sergeant Major, H. H. McDowell, of Fairbury; Surgeon, Dr. Thomas Cotton of Pontiac. The Pastor and every male member of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Pontiac, save two, enlisted in this regiment. This church contained many leading men who believed in muscular Christianity, and in “the Sword of the Lord and of Gidon,” and strange to say, after fighting innumerable battles, and undergoing all kinds of hardships, every member of this church returned alive. This regiment numbered among its company officers such men as J. F. Culver, J. W. Smith, J. F. Blackburn, H. B. Reed, C. W. Baird, B. F. Fitch and John B. Perry, and made for itself a name that shall last as long as the history of the war shall be preserved.

Settlement and Population and Whence Derived

Livingston County contains 1,035 square miles of territory, extending west from north part of Grand Prairie, and having most of the characteristics of that district; and it was among the last counties of the State to attract immigration.

For many years after the first settlers located, our broad prairies failed to induce general settlement, as immigrants seemed to prefer the more rolling lands of the northern and western counties, or the timbered regions farther south. It was not until the building of the Illinois Central Railroad, which passed through many miles of similar country, and brought its peculiar characteristics into favorable notice, and the construction of the Chicago and Mississippi Road, which passed directly through the county, that immigrants generally began to discover the value of the lands of this hitherto neglected region.

Much of the land donated by the Government to the State, and, by the State transferred to the Central Railroad Company, lay in this county, and was put upon the market. This land rapidly found purchasers and occupants; and the building of these roads, together with the construction of the Toledo, Peoria Warsaw Road, made it possible for producers to market their grain, and greatly increased the value of

the land; and the real settlement of the county dates from this era.

The history of the county naturally divides itself into three epochs: First, the occupation by the Indians, from the discovery of the Prairie country by the French, to the first white settlement, in the Fall of 1829. Second, from that period to the present time; But, before the subject was treated in this order, a short statement of the derivation of our population will be given, and, also, the topography and geology of the county will receive attention.

The earlier settlers came, principally, from Indiana and Ohio, with only a few from the States further east and south, while a large portion of those who, during the third epoch, reduced the virgin soil to cultivation, were immigrants from foreign lands, or from the older and more populous counties of this State. These last mentioned were attracted hither by cheaper lands and by a wider range of pasturage. Nearly all of these were men of small pecuniary means, possessed of courage, industry and thrift, and found themselves benefited by their change of locality. The older counties of LaSalle, Bureau, Peoria, Knox, Fulton, Tazewell and Woodford have sent us not a few of their young and active men. Many of our most esteemed and worthy citizens are natives of Ireland, Germany, Norway and Denmark. England has contributed her share, and many freedmen are settled in the county.

But it is not to immigration alone, active and constant as it has been, that our great and rapid increase of population is to be attributed. There are no statistics to show the number of births in the county previous to the present year, and speculation must be left to others than the historian. Fortunately, however, the law which requires the registration of births and deaths has been in force long enough to give a few figures. Registration commenced in December, 1877, but it was not until late in January, 1878, that the full statistics could be obtained.

In four months, 318 births have been recorded, and it is believed that many others have occurred which, for various reasons, have not been reported. But this would make the number of births in this county (which contains a population of 40,000) about one thousand per year, or two and one-half per cent. per annum. The number of deaths registered during the same period is seventy six, showing that the natural increase does not vary much from two percent during the year. The number of marriage licenses issued during this period is 140.

THE PSI CHI'S were a local fraternity which flourished here about 40 years ago. Membership reached peak of over 100 members.

HOUSE BOAT on Vermilion river — early 1920's.

THE McDOWELL BROTHERS, J. W. and G. Y. used this stable as headquarters for their business of importing fine—English Shire horses between 1880 and 1890.

FIRE DEPARTMENT posed on fire truck about 1920. Left to right they are Roscoe Combs, Edward Thomas, Robert Baird, James Langabeer, William Hibsch, Manual Paternoster, Sam A. Demler, Ray Estep, Henry Rusterholtz, Charlie Buzzard, William H. Hallock, Andrew Wahl, Henry Paternoster and William Demler.

Forty Years of Mass Production

Farm history was made forty years ago when mass production of the Fordson tractor was started. Up to that time tractors were too expensive for widespread use. The Fordson, like the Model T Ford, was built on an assembly line with the canvases of mass production being passed on to farmers. The early Fordson assembly line at Dearborn, Mich., is contrasted in this picture with the modern assembly line at Highland Park, Mich., on which Ford tractors currently are built. Approximately 2½ million Ford-built tractors have been produced since the Fordson made its appearance.

It was forty years ago that farmers heard some good news which changed their lives for the better. Mass production of farm tractors on an assembly line started in 1917 at Dearborn, Michigan. And for the first time large numbers of farmers were able to do much of their farming with machine power instead of animal power.

This first mass produced tractor — the Fordson — was built with the same philosophy as that which brought automobiles within reach of most families. Built them inexpensively, make them easy to maintain, and design them for use under all— conditions. Just as the Model T Car revolutionized transportation, so the Fordson revolutionized farming. Three quarters of a million Fordsons were built before 1928.

A direct descendant of that first mass-produced tractor carried on the tradition when in 1939 the Ford tractor with a built-in hydraulic system made its appearance. Now approximately two and a half million Ford-built tractors have rolled off assembly lines in the United States and England, bringing with them a higher standard of living and less back-breaking work for farmers the world over.

Indian History Full of Savage Conflict for Control

When the white settlers first began to locate in the territory out of which Livingston County was formed, they found it in the possession of the Kickapoo and Pottawatomie Indians.

These tribes claimed the country by right of conquest, and their eventful history demands a far more extended notice than can be given to it in these pages. The final and decisive battle between the Kickapoos and the Pottawatomies on the one hand, and the Miamis on the other, finds no parallel in history except it be the battle of "Chevy Chase" between the followers of Douglas and Percy. This "duel of the tribes," as it is called, will again be referred to.

The "Illini" were the first inhabitants of which history gives any authentic account.

This name means "Superior men" and did not apply to a tribe, but to a confederation of tribes, composed of the Peorias, Moinquienas, Kas-kas-kias, Tamaroas and Cahokias. In 1871, this powerful confederation had dwindled to forty souls, and these were living on a reservation southwest of the land assigned by the Government to the Quapaws.

Chicago was their great chief in the days of their glory. In 1700, this chief went to France, and was treated with distinguished honors. His son, of the same name, was also a powerful chief to the time of his death, in 1754.

Against this confederation, the Kickapoos, Pottawatomies and Miamis combined for a war of extermination. After a long and bloody struggle, the Illini made their last stand at Starved Rock, in LaSalle County, in the year 1774. The Illini suffered a disastrous defeat, and left their enemies in undisputed possession of the territory.

When the victorious tribes came to divide the domain among themselves, fresh difficulty arose, and they again resorted to arms.

In this struggle, the Kickapoos and Pottawatomies combined their forces, and made common cause against the Miamis. The war which followed was not of long duration; but it was exceedingly bloody and fatal to the participants. In the year 1774, less than twelve months from the time that they had conquered the Illini, it was agreed that the Miamis should select three hundred warriors, and the Kickapoos and Pottawatomies a like number, and that these six hundred men should meet in combat and decide the quarrel. The opposing forces met on the banks of Sugar Creek and fought from the rising to the setting of the sun and at the close of the day there remained only twelve men who were not killed or mortally wounded; and of these five were Miamis and seven Kickapoos and Pottawatomies.

The ballad of "Chevy Chase," with which every student of history is familiar and which records the only parallel of this conflict to be found in history, tells us that:

“The fight did last from break of day
Till setting of the sun;
For when they rung the evening bell,
The battle scarce was done.

“And the Lord Maxwell, in likewise,
Did with Earl Douglas did;
Of twenty hundred Scottish spears,
Scarce fifty-five did fly.

“Of fifteen hundred Englishmen,
Went home but fifty-three;
The rest were slain at Chevy Chase,
Under the greenwood tree.”

But this people had no written language, and many of their deeds of noble daring will perish with them; but it would require but little imagination to quote further from the records of Chevy Chase, and apply it to this conflict:

“Next day, did many widows come,
Their husbands to bewail;
They washed their wounds in briny tears,
But all could not prevail.

“Their bodies, bathed in purple blood,
They bore with them away;
They kissed them, dead, a thousand times
Ere they were clad in clay.”

In this battle, the Kickapoos and Pottawatomies were declared the victors, and the Miamis retired to the east side of the Wabash River, leaving them in possession of the territory.

The victorious tribes then divided the land between them, and the Indian trail passing near Oliver’s Grove marked the dividing line. East and southeast of this line belonged to the Kickapoos, and the remainder to the Pottawatomies.

Hon. Perry A. Armstrong, a gentleman of culture and natural talent, who resides at Morris, in Grundy County, has made the study of the history of these Indian tribes a specialty for the past twenty-five years; and it is to him that the writer is indebted for valuable dates in this connection.

Armstrong says, in speaking of the Indian trail referred to: “It was very distinct when I last saw it, in 1845, and when I first saw it, in 1831, it was, on an average, eight inches deep by fifteen inches wide.”

This trail was the dividing line between the two tribes up to the year 1835, when the Government moved them west of the Mississippi.

When the boundary line was established, the Pottawatomies retired to the vicinity of Fox River, while the Kickapoos established their headquarters on Salt Creek, near where the town of LeRoy now stands; and the vicinity was known to the first settlers by the name of Old Town Timber. The Pottawatomies would come up as far as Rook's Creek, on their hunting excursions, and they frequently camped on the Vermilion River, in the vicinity of the present residence of Emsey Pope, in Newtown; but the boundary line was respected, and the two tribes remained on friendly terms.

In the spring of 1828, the Kickapoos removed their headquarters within the present bounds of Livingston County. They erected a council house and built a village on the east side of Indian Grove, and the tribe at that time numbered about 700 souls. They possessed all the ordinary characteristics of the typical American Indian--the copper complexion, black, straight hair, well-proportioned limbs and keen, black eyes.

The women were far more attractive in personal appearance than the generality of squaws, notwithstanding the fact that upon them devolved all the drudgery of domestic life; and, while they remained at Indian Grove, the women cultivated the land, after a rude fashion, and raised corn, beans and potatoes, while the men devoted themselves to hunting and fishing, but the squaws were expected to dress all game after it was brought home.

In the spring of 1830, they removed to Oliver's Grove, then known as Kickapoo Grove, where they erected a large and permanent council house, ninety-seven wigwams, and several small encampments.

It was here that an exact census of them was taken, and they numbered--men, women, and children--630 souls.

In the year of 1832, a pioneer Methodist preacher by the name of William Walker, who resided at Ottawa, Ill., visited them and established a Mission. Father Walker was at the time an old man, and the journey was a long one for him to make; but, under his ministrations, several of the tribe were converted to Christianity, among the number being a young man who Walker ordained, and who held regular service every Sabbath when Walker could not attend. They soon came to have great respect for the Sabbath, and, at whatever distance from home they might be hunting during the week, they always returned to camp on Saturday night, so as to be in attendance at church on Sunday morning.

Their prayer boards consisted of walnut boards, on which were carved characters representing the ideas intended to be impressed upon the mind. At the top of the board was a picture of a wigwam.

These boards were quite uniform in size and appearance, and were held very sacred, and were protected with the utmost care; no Indian thought of retiring for the night without first consulting his board.

Each Sabbath they had a public dinner, of which the whole community partook. In the center of the ground in which their religious meetings were held, a fire was kindled, and over this, the camp kettles were hung in a line. The men were grouped on one side of this line and the women on the other; at one end gathered the children, and at the other end stood the preacher. Two men stood near the children to see that perfect order was preserved; and no congregation, even in the days of the Puritan fathers, was more decorous than were these newly Christianized Kickapoos. While the minister preached, the dinner cooked, and when the religious services were over, the kettles removed from the fire, and the dinner was served out into wooden bowls and trenchers, with ladles and spoons of the same material. The dinner generally consisted of venison, coo, opossum, turtle, fish, or any other animal food they could obtain, together with corn, beans, and potatoes, all boiled together.

Hon. Woodford G. McDowell, on whom we have largely drawn for information, says that a dinner of this kind "generally left a quantity of soup, which was highly flavored and quite nutritious." It is natural to suppose that such would be the case.

The Kickapoos remained at this point until September, 1832, when they were removed by the Government to their lands west of the city of St. Louis.

Shabbona, the friend of the whites, with whom many of the earliest settlers were acquainted, was neither a Kickapoo nor a Pottawatomie, but an Ottawa Indian. After the death of Pontiac, after whom the county seat of Livingston County is named, the Ottawa tribe became merged into the Pottawatomies; but many individual members of the tribe clung to the old name, and cherished with pride the history of their descent from this superior stock. Of this number was Shabbona, who was very sensitive on the question of his origin.

If he was called a Pottawatomie, says Armstrong, he would immediately and invariably reply: "Me Ottawa Indian; me no Pottawatomie."

The history of the great chief Pontiac is interwoven with the history of the nation; yet it has remained for Hon. Perry A. Armstrong, of Morris, to give to the world a reliable account of his last days.

The last event recorded in his career, in the commonly received history, is his attack on Capt. Dalzell, who, at the head of three hundred men, was marching to the relief of Detroit, about the last of July, 1763. Says the national historian: "Subsequent to this period, we have no reliable history of the Great Sachem of the Ottawas." Armstrong says: "He was a great brave, who had enemies and rivals, who finally caused him to be assassinated. He was invited to a war dance on a dark night, solely for this purpose! He was warned to stay away, or if he attended to take with him a strong force of braves; but aspiring to be the leader of all, he knew that if he showed fear on this occasion he would be forever disgraced: he started alone, and was waylaid and murdered before he reached his destination." This event occurred in 1772, near where East St. Louis stands.

GRADE THREE ~~in~~ ~~the~~ Fairbury grade school ~~in~~ 1889-90 had ~~the~~ following students: back row — Daisy Brown, Bertha Oivens, ~~Lulu~~ Verkler, Maggie Stevens, Pearl Motz, Emma Harms, Mable Campell, Ann Oivens, teacher Allie Brownson and Bill Walker; middle row — George Craig, Anna O'Mayley Estella Norman, Viva Birch, Brigett Duggan, Mattie Duell, Jessie Ramsey, Maggie Addis, Jessie Epstein and Ella Word. Front row — Nick Kelly, Winfred Shover, Albert Albeck, Eva Williams, Thomas Higbee, Allen Higbee, George Kerr, Marion McDonald and K. Spence.

The T. P. & W. passenger and freight depot was erected about 1909. When it was built it was one of the finest depots for a town the size of Fairbury in the entire state. It was of brick, with a slate roof. When it was built the T. P. & W. operated eight passenger trains in and out of Fairbury each day, and the Wabash two each day.

With the coming of automobiles the passenger business lessened, and the depot closed. The telegraph instruments were removed from the depot to the freight office. A wrecking company bought the building in 1934 and the bricks were sold to members of the Christian Apostolic church who used them in the construction of their church building at Elm and Eighth streets.

Hedge Fences Once Important

by John W. Allen
Southern Illinois University

Pausing to eat a picnic lunch at a roadside table a few days ago, we found some men using a bulldozer to dig out a nearby section of hedge fence. This brought to mind the fact that many significant objects in the Illinois scene have vanished, often with hardly any notice. Among those that have almost completely disappeared are the once common hedges of Osage orange, Maclura aurantiaca to the botanist and bois d'arc to the French explorer who found the Indians using its wood for fashioning bows.

Before barbed wire came to supplant them, the landscape of Illinois was criss-crossed by thousands of miles of hedges made of the Osage orange. Today only occasional bits of those fences remain, and these generally appear as tall over-grown fence rows or as an occasional bush that was left and is now grown to tree size.

Only in rare instances is one of these remaining portions of hedge used as a fence. None are the dense, trimmed hedges that once were common. Those found in service invariably have thin places that have been patched with rails, planks, wire, or poles to turn cattle. We know of no "pig tight" hedge fences still in use.

Fencing was always a major task on early farms. Persons settling in the woodland found plentiful timber for rails near at hand. On prairie borders timber also could be had, but not so readily. As settlers advanced miles into the open prairies the task of fencing became more difficult. If rails were used it often was necessary to haul them for miles by sled or wagon. Fencing, always a problem, became increasingly so as the woodlands were left behind. Faced with increasing difficulties, farmers sought other means of solving their fencing problems. Some built sod-trench fences. By this process the sod was removed and piled in a levee-like mound about the field.

This mound in turn was planted with grass and shrubs. Early use of this method was made in the English settlement about Albion. Others built a low fence of posts, rails and pickets on a low mound. Both these fences were effective since the approaching animal would have its front feet in the ditch, a poor jumping position. Both required much labor to build. Occasionally farmers made fences of smooth wire, but such fences generally were not satisfactory.

The idea of using hedge fences came apparently from Europe, perhaps from England, where they long had been used. Various shrubs and trees ranging from arbor vitae to walnut were tried. The two proving most satisfactory were the buck thorn and Osage orange, the latter one proving the better. Much of the experimental work that established the desirability of the Osage orange was done by Professor J. B. Turner of Jacksonville, who wrote and spoke often on the subject. The Prairie Farmer also did much to encourage the use of hedges.

Though hedge fences first came into general use on the prairies, they were often planted on farms that had been cleared from the woodland. A few specimen trees on the grounds south of Southern Illinois University indicate where hedges once grew. A row of sturdy Osage orange trees is found near Half Moon lick at Equality. A quantity of hedge flourished northeast of Eldorado sixty years ago. It definitely invaded "Egypt". Growing an Osage orange hedge was not an altogether easy task as

indicated by instructions given in various farm papers a hundred and more years ago. Much of the seed beds used came from Texas. It was best planted in the autumn in prepared seed beds but planting could be made in the spring. Seeds were planted about an inch apart in rows a foot apart. About a half million plants thus could be grown on an acre.

The hedge was set in a prepared strip where it was to remain and cultivated for three years or more. If planted in a single row the plants were spaced eight or ten inches apart. Better results were obtained where the setting was made in two rows a foot apart with plants set alternately a foot apart in each row.

One year after setting, the hedge plants were cut off at a height of six inches. This caused thick branching near the ground. The next year they were cut to a height of 18 inches and one foot higher each year until the desired height was reached. The resulting fence was about "rabbit tight". A few older persons, then favorably located will recall those formidable fences.

On many farms new hedges are being planted. Now, however, they are of multiflora roses. These new hedges evidently are not intended to confine livestock but are more for snow fences, game shelters and to soften the landscape. Perhaps a boy still can go down the leeward-side of these new fences after a drifting snow just as other boys went along the vanished hedges of Osage orange with the old muzzle loader to shoot the "setting" rabbits which had taken refuge on the sunny side of the hedge and the resulting snowbanks. Makes me somewhat "home-sick". Believe I'll take such a saunter if a drifting snow comes next winter and I can find a hedge.

Anti-Slavery Movement Grows

In the earlier days of the county, very little of what was called Abolition sentiment existed. There was plenty, however, of latent anti-slavery sentiment, and it only needed a little friction to bring it out. In 1848, there were four votes cast for Van Buren, and while many voted for him in some parts of the county who were not, it is pretty sure that these four men were Abolitionists. It is not now possible to find out who they were, but Capt. Strawn, a pretty good authority, says he believes the four pioneer anti-slavery voters were Otis Whaley, George and Xenophon Richards, and Moses Rumery. At any rate these men, together with Dr. H. H. Hinman, C. P. Paget, Capt. Wm. Strawn and perhaps James Stout, formed the nucleus, a few years after that date, of the first Abolition organization in the county. For some years, they had taken a decided stand against the extension of slavery, and were looked upon as dangerous men.

Word was brought to some of them that some of the officers at Pontiac had captured a fugitive slave who was pushing through the country to Canada. The story ran that the fugitive was chained to a staple driven into the floor of the old Court House. The news created considerable excitement, and was the means of the organization, by Dr. Hinman, of an Abolition society. The slave was returned to his master, but did not suffer in vain, for if the Society thus formed did not liberate all the slaves in America, it certainly did its part toward it. Moses Rumery, who was closely identified with the movement, did not join the Society, as it was both a church and political organization, and he, being a Methodist, could not well join it, but was with them in spirit.

These men laid the track of the underground railroad through the county, with Rumery as conductor and Hinman, Strawn, Paget and Whaley as station agents, flagmen and stokers. No dividends were declared on the stock, but the officers worked with zeal, and no more negroes were seen chained to the Court House.

About this time, an incident occurred which aroused the minds of some citizens who had before this been much opposed to abolition. One Sunday morning, about the year 1853, Judge Babcock, who had recently purchased the Grove farm, heard a terrible racket down the road, and, accompanied by a man who was making it his home there, stepped to the road to see what was the matter, when a most singular, and to him a new sight, met his eyes. In a covered wagon were two as frightened negroes as ever drew in the prairie air of Illinois; beside the wagon were two men on horseback, demanding in the most boisterous tones an unconditional surrender. Between them and the two chattels, walked a man, with a pistol in each hand, threatening the lives of the two pursuers if they came any closer, and alternately threatening the fugitives if they attempted to get out of the wagon, in response to the demands of their pursuers. They were two fugitives, accompanied by a colored barber from Bloomington, and pursued by two Pontiac citizens. As soon as the pursuers saw Judge Babcock and his companion, they rushed up and demanded help, which was politely refused, and then wanted to borrow their guns, which was also refused, and the Judge was, by the force of circumstances, forced to help these fleeing fugitives on their way to Col. Stewart at Wilmington, whereas for all his life, up to that moment, he had been an opponent of all the schemes of Abolitionists. The next time he went to Pontiac, he found it generally noised about that "a D---D Abolitionist had just come from York State, and settled almost right in our midst."

Hon. William Strawn, whose whole heart was in the move, who not only spoke for the cause here, but went to Kansas to fight, and afterward enlisted in the war against rebellion from sentiments of anti-slavery, writes: My particular acquaintance with Livingston County did not begin till 1850. Dr. H. H. Hinman's advent into the county was, I think, in 1852. A man who, with little physical strength, possessed the most magnificent moral courage and downright integrity of any man I ever knew, save perhaps, old John Brown, who added to an equal moral courage physical courage and bodily vigor of grand proportions. The doctor, meek, heroic, energetic, persistent for the right, like his Divine Master loving absolutely all men, instant in season and out of season in every good work, was a power for good in this county which few could rightly estimate.

"The precise date at which James Stout came into the county, I cannot say, but to him and Dr. Hinman, this county owes more than to all others combined for redemption from pro-slavery rule. Courageous to a fault, never thoroughly happy except when miserable--like the typical Englishman; never sparing his dearest friend, if he thought he caught him in a mean trick, belligerently honest to his convictions, he secured both the enmity and sincere regard of a vast proportion of the inhabitants of the county. * * Though not then a resident of the county, I had the honor to be the anti-slavery candidate for the Legislature. I remember making a speech in the old Court House, to perhaps an audience of fifteen persons. S. C. Ladd was of the number, who thoroughly agreed with me in all propositions, except the voting part."

In addition it must be said that Owen Lovejoy, who, as a candidate for Congress, spoke here, did much to arouse the latent anti-slavery sentiment. He was probably the most effective political speaker ever heard in this vicinity. Thoroughly at heart believing every word he spoke, clear, positive, and convincing, he never had his superior on the stump in this state. The remarkable unanimity, with which the people of this county accept the ideas which were so unpopular a quarter of a century since, the slow growth of those ideas through the previous quarter and until the passage of the "Nebraska Bill," that Pandora's box of the propagandism, illustrates one of those wise sayings of an unlearned but very sensible negro, to a friend whose want of information he was lamenting, "Ignorance is a mighty thing, sah! and comes without study."

Pioneers Had Respect For Chief Shabbona

On one of these occasions, Shabbona and the twelve Indian hunters who accompanied him, killed fifty deer, within a circuit of three miles, taking Pope's cabin as a center. This Chief must have been in many respects, a remarkable man, as every pioneer who was acquainted with him bears witness to his character for upright and honorable dealing. This speaks volumes for Shabbona, as the whites at this time were not disposed to regard the Indians with a favorable eye. Pope is still a hale and active old man, and will tell you, in speaking of the early period, that the pioneers enjoyed themselves fully as well as people do at the present day. His early friends and neighbors have long since passed away, while he remains, a link connecting the present with the past. He is cheerful, hopeful and perfectly contented with his lot. He is the father of fourteen children, many of whom are living and are honorable members of society. Pope is much respected in his neighborhood, and he will doubtless spend the remainder of his days in the county which he has seen transformed from a wilderness to one of the finest agricultural districts in the state.

Martin A. Newman, of Newtown, justly claims to be the pioneer merchant of the county. He wasborn in Vermilion County in 1818, and removed to Ottawa in 1838. In the year 1847, he made a tour of discovery through Livingston County, and found that there was not a store of any kind within its borders. He returned to Ottawa and fitted up a peddling wagon, filling it with a great variety of merchandise, from a needle to a wash tub, and, with this traveling establishment, he visited every family in the county once in every month of the year. In exchange for his goods, he took from his customers deer-skins, mink-skins, ginseng root, feathers and many other articles. He was a great favorite, and soon built up an extensive and lucrative business. When he was on his rounds, couriers would be sent out to ascertain when he would be at particular point, so that the products of the country might be gathered, in readiness for exchange.

In the fall of 1847, he purchased of John and Theodore Popejoy the skins of fifty-four deer, which they had killed in Avoca Township. In July of the same year, Joseph C. Morrison, who has before been mentioned, and who was the young man of the period and the leader of fashion, gave Newman an order to bring him, from Ottawa, a full suit of real linen clothes. It was strictly stipulated that the clothes should be delivered by the 3rd, as there was to be a grand ball in Avoca on the 4th, and the dress suit was ordered for that occasion. Newman made the trip, executed the commission, and duly arrived in Pontiac on the 3rd. Morrison was so well pleased with the fit and price that he gave Newman an invitation to the ball; and his attendance was most opportune, for the violinist hired for the occasion got tired, and Newman had to fill his place, which he did to the satisfaction of all parties. When Newman now meets one of his old customers, it is pleasant to see the kindly look and hearty handshake that passes between them as the recollections of the past are called up.

There is much that might be added concerning many others who helped to develop this great county, which is necessarily omitted.

There was Nelson Buck, who loved his profession as he did his life; and Jacob Streamer, who has long been a resident, and is well known throughout the county. He has collected all local statistics and incidents sufficient to fill a volume. O. B. Wheeler commenced business by buying a steer for $5, taking it to Chicago, dressing it and selling the meat for $7.50. this started him in business, and he is one of the wealthy men of the county.

The mention of Morgan L. Payne must not be omitted, as he wasan old and well known resident, and is well known throughout the county. He was Captain of a company in the Black Hawk war, and

performed distinguished service. He was a Texas Ranger when the war between Mexico and this Government was declared, and was in the first battle under Gen. Taylor, on the Rio Grande. When the time of his enlistment as a ranger expired, he returned to Greenboro, Indiana, and raised a company of militia; and returning to Mexico, he served during the war. He was at the taking of Monterey, and the battle of the City of Mexico. He received an honorable discharge, and afterward filled many positions of public trust. When the war of the Rebellion was inaugurated, he raised a company of men in this county, was again elected and commissioned Captain, and served his country faithfully. This hero of three wars died at Pontiac, of cancer, in 1878. He was a man of fiery and impetuous energy that overcame all obstacles with which he came in contact. He had many warm personal friends, who cherish his memory.

Isaac Wilson, who is still living, is distinguished as one of the litigants in the first law suit in the Circuit Court. William Strawn, who resides at Odell was a personal friend of Old John Brown, whose "soul goes marching on." Strawn fought by his side in Kansas. He was one of the charter members of the "underground railroad" through Livingston County, over which many a negro traveled on his way to Canada.

Pontiac has grown to be a beautiful city of near four thousand inhabitants. A few of her old stagers still remain, but, in the course of nature, they must soon pass away. Their view of the present situation is best expressed by the following:

OLD STAGER'S SOLILOQUY

A good many strangers are coming here now,
As I told Eli Davis to-day;
New forms and new faces will make us think how
We old ones are passing away.

The town is improving, and growing so fast
Old landmarks are fading from view,
And whichever way my glances cast,
My old eyes can see something new.

The churches, six of them with carpets and pews,
With paid preachers to manage

Coal, Stone Found In Great Abundance

The geological formations are not unlike those common to the Grand Prairie district, with the important difference that, in this county, coal and stone are found in abundance.

For some years after the first settlement, and during the second epoch, the people lived in ignorance of the vast coal fields of the county. All residents then lived in or upon the skirts of the timber, and no fuel was needed, other than the forest supplied. It is true that the outcroppings of coal along the banks of the river, in the northwestern part of the county, were discovered and commented upon; but the pioneer had no means of utilizing it, and considered it of no value.

About the year 1860, Henry L. Marsh, who owned a large tract of land near Fairbury, had his attention called to the fact that the rapidly increasing population must necessarily require a more abundant

supply and a cheaper fuel. There was not timber enough in the county to supply it for ten years, at the rate it was being consumed; and, from his knowledge of coal formation, Marsh believed that it could here be obtained, by going to a sufficient depth.

At that day, coal mining, by deep perpendicular shafts, was unknown in this bituminous district. LaSalle, Peoria and Morris were sending out the few tons they were called upon to supply, and Coalville supplied a meager local trade.

The Wilmington coal fields were not yet discovered, and Streator, which now, from its various shafts, sends up its thousands of tons per day, was unknown to the worthy man whose name it bears; and for a decade after Marsh's pioneer labors, the place was known only by the name of "Hard-scrabble." To a man of less force, will-power and energy than Marsh, the idea of mining coal on the open prairie of Livingston County would have remained an idea, or it might have grown into a desire; but he was made of the right material to push a gigantic enterprise to completion. He at once set about an investigation of the facts in the case, and under his investigation, the possibilities steadily grew into a reality. The story of his struggles with adverse fortune, his heavy losses, his trials and failures, and his final success, would make an interesting and instructive chapter of history. Water, at various depths, so flooded his work and damaged it in various ways, that his friends and backers deemed the scheme impracticable; but, he was not discouraged, and, in the last extremity he completed an invention of his own, by which the difficulty was overcome. At a depth of 180 feet, he struck a paying vein of excellent coal. The success attending Marsh's efforts incited others to like enterprises and, in 1865, a shaft was sunk at Pontiac, another shaft at Fairbury in 1868, one near Streator in 1872, one at Cornell in 1875, and one at Cayuga in 1878. Cayuga, which is distant five miles from the river, is, thus far, the farthest point from the Vermilion at which a paying vein of coal has been reached in the county. The efforts to find coal at Odell and Dwight have thus far proved failures. The mining at Coalville is carried on by horizontal entries, and is not so expensive to the operators. The capital invested in coal mining in Livingston County will not fall short of a quarter of a million dollars, and, thus far, the enterprise has proved far more profitable to purchasers than to the proprietors of the mines. Ledges of limestone, suitable for building purposes, are found along the banks of the Vermilion, and at Pontiac and in the vicinity inexhaustible quarries of calcareo-silicious stone are found. In sinking the coal shafts at Fairbury, a fine dark sandstone of peculiar color and quality was discovered. This stone is easily dressed, and is a superior stone for building purposes.

First Railroad Built in 1853

The four railroads which pass through the county make no small item in the importance and wealth of the county. From their building dates the filling up of our county and the bringing its lands into market. Without them we were, and, in all human probability, would have remained a waving prairie.

The first road in date of construction, the Chicago & Mississippi, running from Joliet to Alton, was built in 1853 and '54. A few years later, it was sold out on the second mortgage, and bid off by Joel A. Matteson, for $6,500. He run it for a time, and then permitted it to be sold, and it was purchased by T. B. Blackstone and others, who formed the Chicago & Alton Company, and have made it a successful road. The company purchased a controlling interest in the stock of the Chicago & Joliet road, and now, practically, it is a continuous line. The stations on their main line are Dwight, Odell, Cayuga, Pontiac, and Ocoya. In 1869 this road built the Western Division, running from Dwight through the northern part of the county to Streator, thence southwest to Washington, in Tazewell County, with Nevada, Blackstone, and Smithdale on it, and about the same time put down a second track from Odell north as

far as Gardner.

This road now has sixty miles of track in the county. In the years 1858 and 59, the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw road was built through the county. It was then known as the Eastern Extension of the Peoria & Oquawka R. R. The road becoming embarrassed, the Peoria & Oquawka part of it passed into the possession of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy R. R., and all the company had was an extension to a road they did not own. The company was re-organized as at present known, and pushed their road on, reaching the Mississippi at Burlington, Keokuk, and Warsaw. They own eighteen miles of track in this county. Its stations are Fairbury, Forrest and Chatsworth.

The road now known as the Chicago & Paducah has a local history, it being a Livingston County corporation. In 1865, Mr. Samuel L. Fleming, of Pontiac, a man who had spent a small fortune in railroading, drew and got passed by the Legislature, a charter for a railroad from Ottawa to Fairbury. The corporators named in the charter were S. C. Ladd, P. P. Babcock, Samuel L. Fleming, Nelson Buck, Jonathan Duff, Wm. Strawn, R. B. Harrington, S. C. Crane, John Dehner, Walter Cornell, M. E. Collins, Ralph Plumb, Enoch Lunday, David McIntosh, H. L. Marsh, W. G. McDowell, J. W. Strevell, I. B. Tyler and Wm. B. Lyon.

In 1867, the charter was amended so that the road might run anywhere northerly and southerly of Pontiac--that point being retained. The name, however, in the charter was retained. Under the impetus given to railroad building by the "grab law" of 1869, the company was formed, M. E. Collins being elected President and S. S. Lawrence, Secretary. The townships of Indian Grove, Avoca, Eppard's, Point, Owego, Pontiac, Amity, and Newton issued bonds, and with these in hand the Fairbury, Pontiac & Northwestern Company made a contract with Col. Ralph Plumb, of Streator, Col. W. H. W. Cushman, of Ottawa, and David Strawn, to build and equip the road, transferring to them all the bonds and issuing the stock to them, so that when built it became theirs. In this contract was a stipulation that the parties of the second part would never transfer the road to the Chicago & Alton R. R. Co.; the intent being, of course, to keep this a competing road. They built the road from Streator through this county, pushing it south through Ford, Champaign, Piatt, Moultrie, Shelby, and Effingham Counties to Altamont. Its stations in this county are Newtown, Cornell, Rowe, Pontiac, McDowell, Lodemia, Fairbury, Murphy's and Strawn. It connects at Streator with the Ottawa branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy. It has forty-one miles of track in the county.

The Chicago, Pekin & Southwestern has about twelve miles of track through the county, having stations at Reading and Long Point.

Several other railroad projects are in contemplation or progress, principal among which, that are likely to be built at no distant day, are the road from Dwight to Kankakee, and the Decatur & State Line road, to pass through the eastern tier of townships.

Livingston 4th Largest County In Illinois

The county is bounded on the north by LaSalle and Grundy Counties; on the east by Kankakee and Ford; on the south by Ford and McLean; on the west by McLean, Woodford and LaSalle Counties. It embraces Ranges from 3 to 8, east of the Third Principal Meridian, Townships from 25 to 30, north of the base line of the state, being thirty-six miles from east to west, and twenty-four from north to south, with an addition of eighteen by nine and three-fourths miles, lying south of the eastern half of the county. It contains twenty-seven full Congressional Townships, namely: Reading, Newtown, Sunbury,

Nevada, Dwight, Round Grove, Long Point, Amity, Esmen, Odell, Union, Broughton, Nebraska, Rook's Creek, Pontiac, Owego, Saunemin, Sullivan, Waldo, Pike, Eppard's Point, Avoca, Pleasant Ridge, Charlotte, Indian Grove, Forrest, and Chatsworth; and three fractional townships, Belle Prairie, Fayette and Germantown.

In size, it is the fourth largest county in the state, being exceeded only by LaSalle, McLean and Iroquois. It is principally prairie land; but timber is found along the Vermilion River and its branches, and also in some fine groves of native timber, in various parts of the county. Round Grove, near the north-eastern corner, originally contained 80 acres; Oliver's Grove about 800 acres, situated near the southeastern corner; Indian Grove, near the southwestern corner, about 800 acres; and Babcock's Grove embraces 100 acres standing on high ground near the center of the county; Packwood's Grove, near this point, contains 20 acres, and Five Mile Grove, near the head of the north branch of the Vermilion, closes the list. Each of these, with the exception of Round Grove, which is on a branch of the Mazon, stands at the head of a small stream which, on leaving the timber, flows through the open prairie and empties into the Vermilion.

The timber land does not exceed six per cent of the area. The different varieties of oak, elm, maple and walnut predominate, while ash, cottonwood, white-wood and some other varieties are not uncommon, and a few cedars are found on the banks of the Vermilion.

The Vermilion River has its rise in the extreme southeastern portion of the county, and has the following tributaries: South Branch, Indian Creek, Turtle Creek, Wolf Creek, Rook's Creek, Mud Creek, Long Point and Scattering Point Creeks, most of which have their rise in the county. All of these streams are living water, fed by springs, affording ample water for stock and splendid drainage for all parts of the county.

The Vermilion and the larger branches are well stocked with fish, of which the pickerel, bass and cat-fish are the predominant varieties. The Vermilion affords water-power for a few mills, the best point being at Pontiac, where Thomas Williams' fine grist-mill and saw-mill are located.

This river has thus been noticed by a local writer:

THE VERMILION

Vermilion is no classic stream,
She is not named in song or
story;
No mighty deed or poet's dream
Have placed her on the page of
glory;
And yet her banks are just as
fair
As those of classic rivers are.

The Rubicon with all its fame,
When sifted down is but a sham;
Vermilion is a longer name,
And quite as wide above the dam
And as for Caesar riding through

it--
Why, any half-baked fool could
do it.

Some men go out to see the Nile,
Because they think ‘tis great and
marly;
And one stayed out there such a
while,
He had to be looked up by
Stanley.
It really did him no more good
Then paddling up Vermilion
would.

Burns sang the praise of Bonnie
Doon.
Because a song he must deliver;
Had he lived here he would as
soon
Have sung thy praise, Vermilion
River
Buck’s springs would then as
famous be
As the castle of Montgomery.

Flow on, Vermilion, gently flow,
And turn the wheels of Williams’
mill
Still on thy way rejoicing go--
A river is a river still
And all the rivers known to
fame
Are made of water just the
same.

The soil is principally the deep, black alluvial, common in this state. The surface is gently undulating, with broader stretches of level land than are found in the northern and western counties. The lands lying south, southwest and north-west of the center of the county are for the most part level, while north, east and south-east of the center, the land is more rolling, yet not so uneven as to receive any ill effects from washing, while under the plow.

The chief advantage which land of this character has over a more rolling and broken surface is that, for many years to come, there can by no perceptible loss in its fertility, from washing while under cultivation.

Some Words From The Coal Mines

by John W. Allen
Southern Illinois University

Coal mining has been an important industry in Illinois for more than a hundred years. It doubtless will remain so for another hundred. Since mining began here, the methods and processes have changed greatly. The words and expressions that make up the trade jargon used by those working about the mines have changed accordingly. Many terms served their particular use and are forgotten, unless remembered by a few old miners. Some of the terms they used, however, passes into general use.

One of the expressions that passed from the mines into common use was the one used to designate coal before it is processed. Such coal has always been designated as “mine run”, a term now in common use to indicate almost any product before it has been assorted or graded. In the orchard country it has become “orchard run”.

Another term often heard is “sprag”, sometimes “sprig”. The sprag of the miner was a hickory stick, often the remnant of a broken tool handle, about eighteen inches long. This was placed between the spokes of a mine car to keep it from rolling. Many a man who was never in a mine has “put a sprag in his wheel” when he wished to hinder someone’s progress. To these two examples, those acquainted with mining jargon can add many others.

Inspection of the files of trade jargons in the Library of Congress and conversations with old miners yield hundreds of words that have particular significance about the mines. For instance, an “old head” that had worked at the face for more than fifty years remembered when he was a “green horn”, a “snake stomper” or a “hillbilly”, depending upon who was naming him. He insisted, however, that he never was a “mountain jack” who could be sent upon a fool’s errand, like borrowing a foot jack or a half dozen drill holes.

The miner often gave strange names to the tools and devices he used. His shovel was a “banjo”. A buggy was used to haul coal from a “widow maker” to a conveyor belt or “skip”. “Bug dust” was powdered coal from cutting machines or drills. A miner might “take five” (a nap) in this bug dust. A “devil” or “jim-crow” was a pronged device to hold cross ties in position as track was laid. A “doodle bug”, a “lightning bug”, or a “bug light” was the miner’s lamp. “Dog knots” were the incrustations that built up about the wick of an oil burning lamp and caused the light to burn brighter. “Gob” was mine refuse, like rock, shale, slate, and sulphury coal.

Mine cars were hauled about by “hardtails” or “knotheads”, otherwise mules driven by skinners. Doors through the brattices built across entries were opened and closed by “trappers”. These workmen were often men no longer able to do hard physical labor, or they were boys holding their first jobs in a mine. The writer knew one boy who upped his age a bit and became a trapper at 12.

Two, three or even four mules in tandem made up a “string” or “spike” team. The mule in front was the lead or spike mule and the one next to the car was the wheel mule. These could well be termed “wise mules”. A “trip rider” collected loads or distributed loads from the “partings”, “partin”, or “pardon” that was the underground switchyard. When motors came to replace mules, trip riders became “dinkey riders”.

“Black damp” or “choke damp” was the gas sometimes found in mines that would smother a miner. It

was brushed away by diverting an air current through the space where it collected. “Brushing” also might mean cutting away the floor to heighten a passageway.

Coal was mined from “rooms”. A “buddy” was the man with whom one worked. This term also was applied to a large wooden wedge that the miner attached to his foot and used to scotch or chock the wheel of a punching machine and hold it against the face of the coal. “Black jack” was a heavy oil used by the grease boys. Miners also used it to smear streaks of sulphur in large lumps of coal. Over this they would throw bug dust, trusting that their luck would not break and the “dock boss” place a fine on them.

“Kale” was money but “kale seed” was blasting powder that the miner used to fill the paper cartridges that he used to shoot coal. These shots were placed in holes drilled five feet or so into the face of the coal. A clay dummy with a copper needle was placed on the charge and securely tamped. When this was completed, the needle was withdrawn and a “squib” was inserted. At first miners lighted their own squibs; later specialists called “shot firers” were assigned to this task. A shot that failed to explode was a hazard and was marked to be avoided for a specified number of hours.

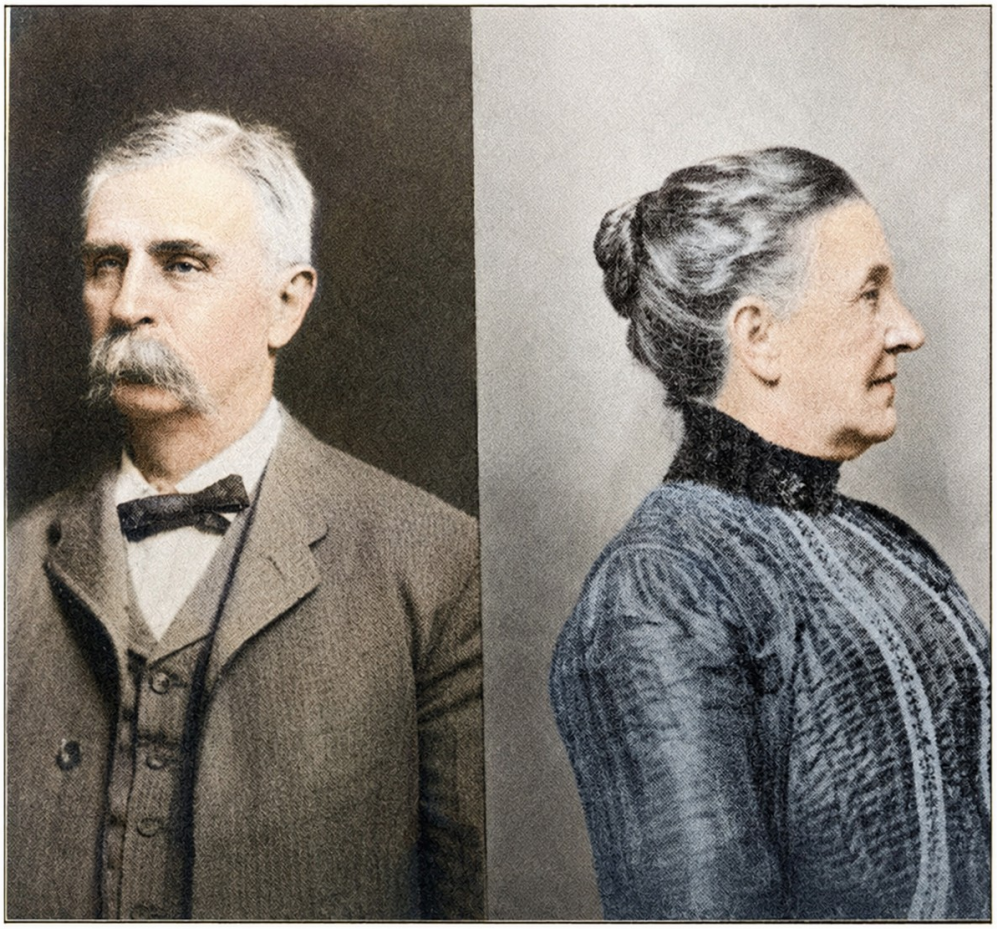
Officials were “big wigs”, “brass collars”, “gaffers” or “pig shots”. “Hunkies” were miners of any nationality that could not speak understandable English. “Nigger heads” were rounded boulders that projected from the roof of mines. A “cap” was the board at the top of a “soldier” or mine prop. A “cage” was the platform on which men or cars were hoisted.

A tender roof that made the distinctive noises which indicated a likely fall was said to be “grunting” or “working”. The cry, “She’s coming in” or “She’s falling in” caused every miner to scurry to the safest available place.

To the words listed here, scores of others could be added. There were “breakers” and “broomcats”, “bunkers” and “crawfish”, “flat-wheels” and “flunkeys”, “goosenecks” and “gophers”, “stoops” and “sumps”, “sunshine miners” and “windjammers”. Those who worked the mines used a jargon of their own.

HOME DOMESTIC SCIENCE club membership of 1916 is pictured above. They are, left to right, back row — Pearl Koerner, Emily Ricketts, Ethel Seal and Baby Glen, Ida Garber, Maude Graves, Vila Ricketts, Nelle Garber, Pearl Ulfers, Virginia McCarty, Mary Sullivan, Nannie Freed, Hazel Freed, Mrs. Ed Emery, Edwina Stauffer, Mary Harrington.

Middle row — Arinis Sutter, Virgie Freed, Isabel Harrington Radburn, Louise Harrington Yeagie, Stella Williamson Ziller, Elsie Troehler, Mildred Orendorf, Front row — Lottie Ricketts Ramseyer, Louise Troehler, Fern Orendorf, Voda Ulfers, Stanley Wayne Crouch, Helen Garber, Leona Orendorf, Gertie Kelso and Ida Crouch.



Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Dominy

NAMES WHICH played a big role in the history of Fairbury are grouped together in this picture. They are, left to right, first row, Mrs. G. Y. McDowell, Mrs. J. W. McDowell; second row, Mrs. Herbert Powell, Mrs. Percy James Sr.; third row, Mrs. Ray Webster and Mrs. William Bane.

4-Foot Snow Of 1830-31 Perils Early Settlers

(Taken from the The Blade July
21, 1937)

The first settlement in what is now Livingston county was made by V. M. Darnell. He erected his cabin in the southern part of the timber known as Indian Grove in the fall of 1829. About the same time Frederick Rook located about five miles west of Pontiac on a creek which bears his name, and soon Isaac Jordan located in the same part of the county.

These three men and their families were the only white people in the county who saw the big snow. This occurred in 1830-31, and in the dead calm the snow fell at a depth of four feet. This was followed by a drizzling rain which turned to sleet; then came intensely cold weather.

Deer by the hundreds starved to death, and birds, such as quail and prairie chickens, as well. Food was

scarce; the first settlers, so recently arrived had not came to meet such an emergency. Even the Indians suffered severely.

Go for Food

Rook and Jordan were given to the extremity of making the trip to Machinaw for corn. They made snow shoes from slabs of wood, a hand sled from poles, and started on their perilous journey, while the women cared for the stock, and kept the grease lamps burning as signal lights through the anxious nights.

Each man received one and one-half bushels of corn, which they pulled over the grandulating surface of the snow, requiring four days on their return. The corn was then pounded into meal by hand to appease the pangs of hunger. Darnell was in Mackinaw when the snow began. Bewildered in the storm, he finally reached his cabin through the instinct of his faithful horse.

Andrew McMillen and Garrett M. Blue settled on Rooks creek in 1830 and Jacob Moon at Moon's point at about the same time. William McDowell with his five sons and two daughters came from Ohio to Avoca township in 1832.

Indian War Starts.

The Black Hawk war broke out in 1832. The 630 Kickapoos about Oliver's Grove were visited by emissaries of Black Hawk and urged to join in an avenging war against the white settlers. But they were restrained by the teaching of the faithful missionary, whose ministry proved most efficient in keeping these children of the forest in friendly relations with the settlers, although fear and limited means of defense led to a temporary exodus.

On the morning of May 28 the party consisting of seven families and six wagons drawn by ox teams left for Indiana to escape the Indians. On the second day a daughter was born to the wife of Isaac Jordan. The mother and child were left at the home of Philip Cook of Cook's Grove and the remainder of the party pushed on to their destination. Martin Darnell, A. B. Phillips and James Spence removed their families to Markinaw for safety. Franklin Oliver remained and was unharmed.

Nature Was Lavish

The question of subsistence in such remote regions naturally arises, but the territory was by no means a desert waste. Deer and smaller animals were abundant, water and land fowls were to be had for the taking, while fish of many varieties were an easy catch. The woods furnished fruit in abundance, and the area, one-sixth being covered with forest, furnished material at hand for buildings, shelter, and heating. The sweets from the maple and honey from the bee tree were luxuries costing little labor.

Nature was also lavish in her forms of beauty. The flora of this section was not disappointing. Of the 132 orders found native to northern United States, 111 are represented in Illinois by 1,050 different species. Even the dullest traveler was moved to enthusiasm by the world of color shown in Illinois prairies and woodland.

Water fowls nested in unnumbered thousands in the favorable breeding grounds of the county, and 38 families of song birds made music through the forests and about sheltered retreats. To these natural gifts, the deep black alluvial soil of the county was prophetic of the abundant harvests for unborn time.

One year of even the crude cultivation of that day, and the soil fairly matched the aphorism of Sydney Smith. “Tickle it with a hoe and it will laugh with a harvest.”

Period of Action.

The years of early settlement in the county were a germinal period for thought, action and inventions. The monotony of centuries was to be broken in upon in community, state and nation. The same year Abraham Lincoln was born, an illustrious company was given being who were to make the opening of the century the most conspicuous in human history.

Enslaving toil was to be lifted from the shoulders of millions. Reforms were projected, human relations were to change, and assured earthly store was to banish the fear of famine. Livingston county was to become one of the seven most productive counties of the nation. In spite of the great distance to mill and market, the population increased. Fifteen of the townships were entered by settlers at the time the county was organized; others followed in time, to be a credit to community life.

Invent New Plow

One encouraging feature was the improvement in farm equipment. In 1847 there was not a plow that would scour in Livingston county soil, but the next year Henry Jones and Phillip Rollins conceived the idea of a polished steel moldboard plow, and Jones being a blacksmith, determined to try it. Loading 10,000 pounds of dressed pork on five sleds, Jones drove to Chicago, exchanged the pork for steel, and successful experiment was made with the new plow two miles east of Pontiac. He continued making plows till 1849, when he quit to pilot a party of gold seekers to California, and left the plow making fortune to David Bradley and John Deere, who were experimenting at about the same time.

The mowing machine also belonged to this period, and it was followed by the reaper, with hand rake, drop, self rake, marsh harvester, self-binder and combine of the present time. The flail for hand threshing of small grain was followed by the first suggestion of the modern threshing machine in 1837. With these early experiments in farm machinery the improvements have come by leaps and bounds, giving to agriculture its present importance.

Fencing Is Problem.

Fencing the cultivated fields became an early task to the first settlers and also protection from the herds of deer that roamed the woods and prairies. Later, large herds of cattle from counties where the prairie land had been brought under cultivation were collected and herded on the prairie during the pasture season at a nominal charge per head. They also menaced the unfenced fields.

The stake and rider fence followed the earlier brush fences. The rails were split from walnut, oak, hickory and ash trees. With the

advancing price of lumber, about 1853, the osage orange hedge fence was introduced and thousands of miles of hedge fence were set out on the farms. With the coming of the railroad, cedar posts and pine boards were extensively used until advancing prices brought barbed wire into use; then woven wire, which insured added safety to stock.

A new fence law was enacted in 1866 and necessitated the stock raiser to fence his livestock from the open fields, which settled the fencing problem, stock not being permitted to run at large.

County is Formed

Livingston county was formed by an act of the state legislature, February 27, 1837, out of McLean and LaSalle counties. The territory had formerly been a part of Cook and Vermilion counties. The entire population did not exceed 450 inhabitants, men, women, and children. In the act of organization, Thomas S. Flint of Tazewell county, William B. Peck, of Will county, and James W. Pratt, of Macon county, were appointed commissioners to locate the permanent seat of justice.

They met at the home of Mr. McMillan on the Vermilion river, four miles northwest of the present site of Pontiac, on the first Monday in June, 1838. The conditions of the location were that it should be located on government land, or if on privately owned land, they should be required to donate twenty acres of land, or the sum of $3,000, the proceeds to be used in erecting the county buildings.

Dedicate New Courthouse

In the year 1875, when the new Court House was completed, it was determined by the old settlers throughout the county that a grand reunion should be held and the new building properly dedicated. A preliminary meeting was called at the fair grounds early in the fall of the year, at which C. B. Ostrander presided, and John A. Fellows was appointed Secretary.

The 30th of December was the day fixed upon the re-union, and committees of arrangements were appointed in every township in the county. On the day appointed, the old settlers turned out en masse. Tables, capable of seating fifteen hundred people, had been prepared by the citizens of Pontiac, and these were all filled. James McDowell was President of the day, and John A. Fellows, Secretary. An address of welcome was delivered by Nathaniel J. Pillsbury. Letters were read from Judge Treat, who held the first term of court in Pontiac, and from Hon. David Davis and Jesse W. Fell. O. F. Pearce, who had been requested to furnish a poem for the occasion, read the following:

ADDRESS TO THE OLD SETTLERS OF LIVINGSTON

One hundred years ago today
The British troops in Boston lay;
Our sires then hardly thought
that they would found a Nation
Whose ships would whiten many
seas,
Whose flag should float on every
breeze,
Whose armies could maintain
with ease her lofty station

And in that hundred years ago,
The deer, the wolf, the buffalo,
At will went roaming to and fro

where now our county
Spreads out one vast and fertile
plain
Of golden corn and waving grain,
Rejoicing ’neath a constant rain
of Heaven’s bounty.

Yea, men now sitting in this
hall
In mem’ry can the time recall
When nature brooded over all;
When all was unbroken
The solitude that wrapped the
land
Where now our smiling cities
stand,
When silence reigned on every
hand, and gave no token,

Save by the hooting of the owl,
The clangor of the water fowl,
The red deer’s signal or the howl
of gray wolf, weary,
In searching for his scanty food,
Save where, perhaps, some cabin rude
Seemed on the lonely scene to
brood, so lone and dreary.

Oliver, Cummings, these can tell,
Wilson, McDowell and Darnell;
John Johnson knows the story
well, the quaint old story;
How chief Shabbona and his
band
Kindled their camp fires on the
strand
Of fair Vermilion, when the land
Stood robed by virgin Nature’s
hand in pristine glory.

Peace to thy shade, Shabbona,
rest;
A warm, true heart beat in thy
breast;
The white man’s friend you stood
confessed, of those we mention.
Thy name deserves a worthy
place,
Brave chieftain of a warlike

race,
Hist'ry accords thee little space;
I would a more worthy pen could
trace
Thy fame, and, with befitting
grace, thy virtues mention.

Blue,
McDowell and Tuttle, Campbell,
too, and other worthies not a few.

Ye pioneers, it is to you

The debt of gratitude is due;

Ye builded wiser than ye knew
the broad foundation

On which our superstructure
stands;

Your strong right arms and willing
hands, our veneration!

And you, who yet upon the shore
Of time remain, strike hands once more,
Today recount your trials o'er
Repeat to us, from out your store,
The legions and the early lore,
repeating

The name of Rummery, he who found

That famous railroad under ground;

Then pass the name of Corey round,

Cornell and Sprague, their praises sound;

Ladd, Dehner, Fellows, Fyfe, profound

On finance, Spafford, such names
sound in greeting.

We point to you, old friends, and say

The heat and burden of the day
You bore, and in an earnest way
we meet you,

Well pleased, indeed, to see you stand,

On this glad day, a gallant band,
Whose hands have wrought, whose
brains have planned

With beating heart and open
hand, we greet you!

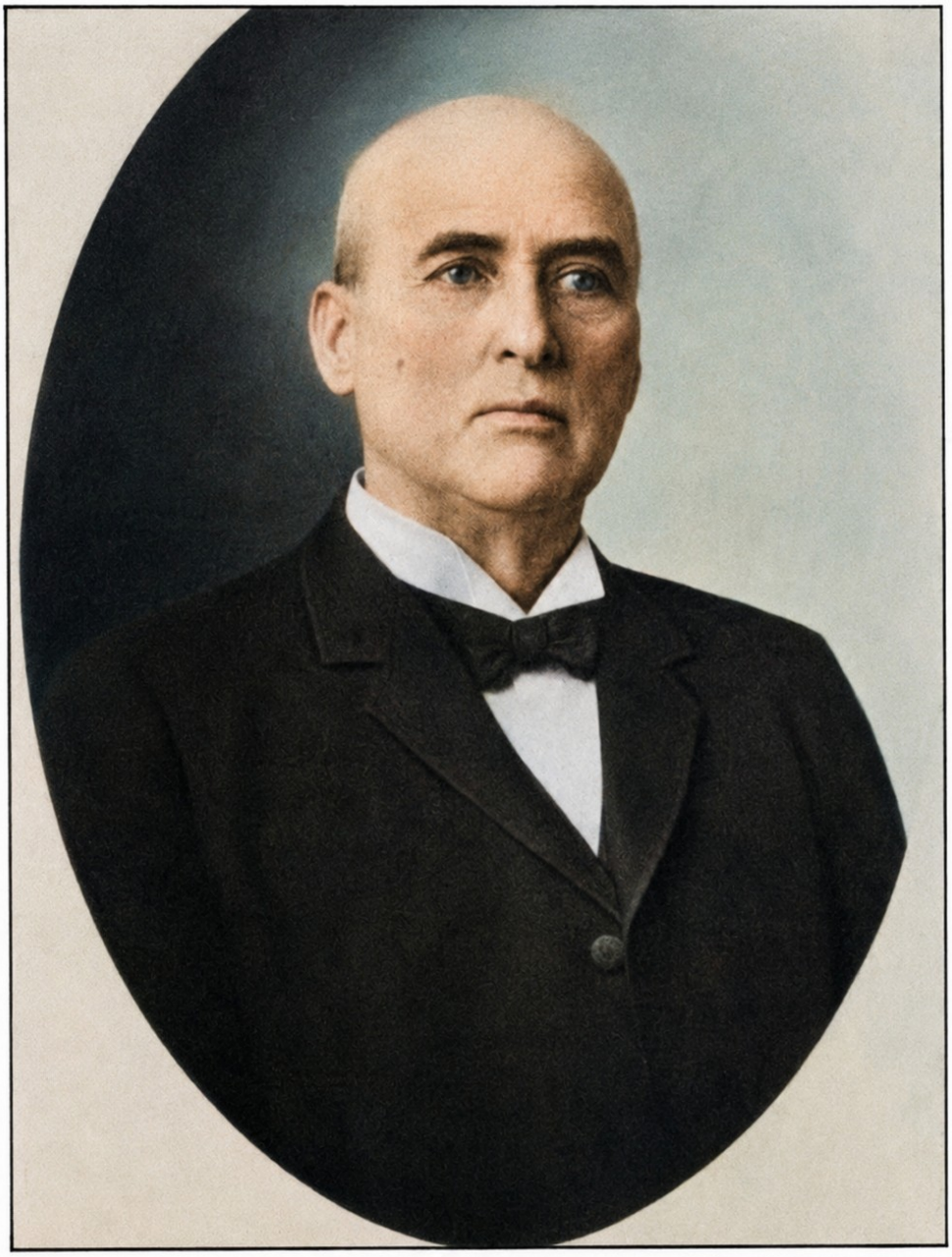
After these exercises, various old settlers made short addresses, and the day was spent in relating incidents and anecdotes of the early days, and a regular Old Settlers' Association was formed.

The second meeting was held on the fair grounds in September, 1876. The third meeting was held at Fairbury, September 4, 1877, and was largely attended. The meeting was called to order by the President, James McDowell, and Dr. Fraley delivered an address of welcome. Hon. Woodford G. McDowell delivered a historical address, and letters from various distinguished persons, who visited the county in an early day, were read.

The officers elected for the following year, were: President, Walter Cornell; Secretary, John A. Fellows; Scribe, David Murdock; Chaplain, Rev. James Parcells. The village of Cornell was chosen for its next point of meeting.

THRESHING SCENE taken on the Stuckey homestead about 1890 should bring back memories for many Fairburians. Walter J. Stuckey sits on the side of the engine. Ladies standing in the picture are Mrs. George Stuckey, Mrs. Lizzie Stuckey Besgrove, Miss Lettie Stuckey and Mrs. Jessie Stuckey.

Farm was located two miles east and three-fourths of a mile south of Fairbury.



John W. McDowell

GAY BLADES OF THE 19th century didn't have convertibles, but they were just as proud of their two-wheelers. Here, O. W. Crumbaker, left, and Tom Slater, deceased, posed for the camera of Frank Fuessley one day in 1893.

Old Fashioned Cookery

by Mrs. A. F. Ziegenhorn

These recipes came to this country from Germany, by our grandparents. They are 100 years old or more. In those days they didn't have recipes. Cooking was an art.

They had very little to do with. Many wonderful things were made with flour. Their flour was not refined, and it was dark flour.

One dish, made up a complete meal, but they ate five times a day. They lived on potatoes and what they could make with flour. Meat was scarce.

THANENKUCHEN
(Pancakes)

These are made with flour, salt, eggs and milk, no Baking Powder or Soda. They are made light with eggs.

(Roughly guessing)

1 and one-half cup flour
1 tsp. salt.
4 or 5 eggs.
Milk enough to make a thin batter.

Put plenty of fat in skillet.

Pour in enough batter to make a pancake as large as the skillet and very thin. Brown on one side then turn over and brown the other and so on until batter is used up.

Can be served with syrup or rolled with fruit, berries, bananas, peaches any kind of fruit, or roll them up and serve with a thin hot custard.

ONKA BROTE
(butter bread)

Take a loaf of bread that is not too fresh and slice in small thin pieces. Put about 2 tablespoons fat in a skillet. Add very little water, cover and let steam add a little salt, turn occasionally. Now let brown.

Slowly put over bread, well beaten eggs, add salt, to eggs, the amount of eggs depends on the amount of bread you use. The bread should only be partly covered with eggs.

This was used like we use fried bread or French toast.

GRUNDBEREN KNEPHLE

Mashed potatoes, add salt, milk and butter. Beat until fluggy, in a Dutch oven. Add a batter of flour and

milk. (Roughly guessing) 3 T. flour to a quart of mashed potatoes.

The secret is the right amount

Continued on Page 4

Old Fashioned—

(Continued from page 3)

of flour and this takes experimenting. Let steam over low heat until the flour is cooked.

Serve in a large vegetable dish, topped with plenty of browned butter. These are delicious.

FERDEMFTE KNEPHLE

About 1 and one-half cup flour
three-fourths tsp. salt.

Slowly pour boiling water over flour cut in with a knife until the flour is damp like pie dough.

Put about 2 T. fat in frying pan. Cut dough in small thin slices and brown on each side until crisp.

Serve with maple syrup or fruit. This is like fried mush only much better.

DAMPSNUDLEN
(bread dumplings)

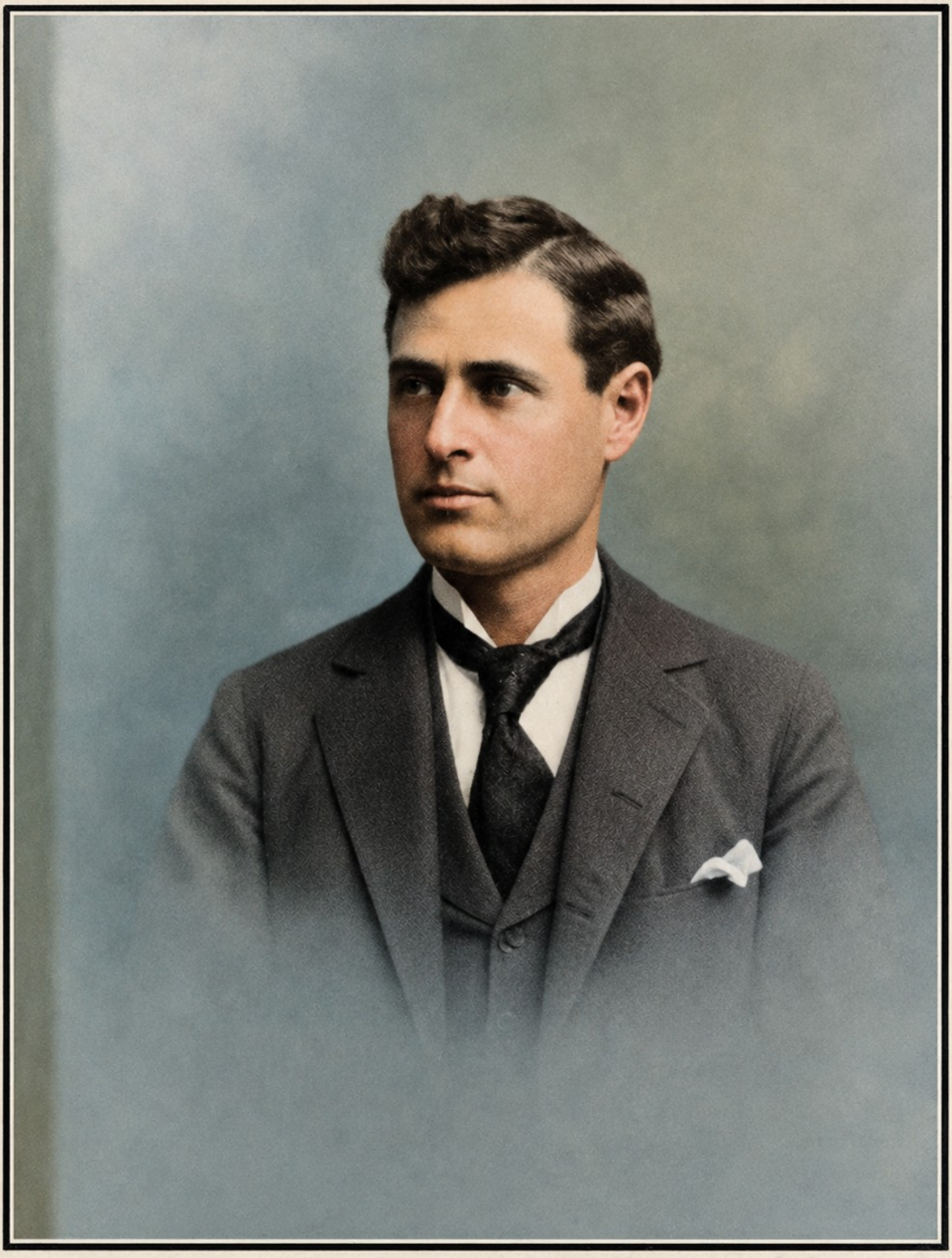
Melt about 2 tablespoons fat in a Dutch Oven. See that sides are well greased. Make bread dough into biscuits and arrange in Dutch Oven, let raise, then add about one-half cup water and cover tight, let steam for about 20 min. on top of range. Do not uncover.

Turn to low heat and let dumplings brown slowly to a crisp golden brown for about 10 more min.

Remove from heat but do not uncover for another few min. or they will fall. Serve the dumplings, in bowls, like you would apple dumplings.

Carefully tear open top of dumplings and pour sweetened milk in and around dumpling. We used white flour for all these recipes. When we were kids these were a real treat.

1906 EDITION OF Gamma Delta Sorority included these six young ladies, who were identified in picture brought to The Blade only with their first names. They are, left to right, Maude, Gertrude, Rosamond, Susie, Emma and Greeta.



Frank Churchill

Mr. and Mrs. James McDowell

LOCAL BICYCLE club of early 1920's moves down Fairbury main street on one of their many excursions to nearby cities.

BICYCLING WAS AN ever popular sport in the days before the automobile. Here a group of young Fairburians gather in Central Park before peddling off on an excursion one day many years ago.

TRANSCRIPTION NOTE:

The Blade has incorrect captions on the two photos above. The men are riding motorcycles, not bicycles.

MOTORCYCLE RACES used to pack 'em in at the local fairgrounds just as the stock cars do now. This cyclist — who may have been Fairbury's immortal Carl Goudy who won national fame on the tracks — was caught going around the first turn with the packed grandstand and fence-hangers in the background.

THE 39th ANNUAL meeting of the Livingston county Home Bureau produced these officers: Left to right, they are, Mrs. John Mortimore, Pontiac, president; Mrs. Wayne Sargent, Chatsworth, vice president; Mrs. Boyd Tombaugh, Streator, 4-H chairman; Mrs. Leslie Mies, Fairbury, treasurer; Mrs. Grace Wepner, Pontiac, county home adviser.

TAKING A PART in the earlier' social life of Fairbury were, left to right by rows, Jessie Dominy Powell, Lyda Wade Cook, Lizzie Dominy Bane, Oddie McDowell Shaffer, Olive Filley James, Nellie Straight, Franc Wilson McDowell, Jennie Dominy McDowell and Lilly McDowell Churchill.

POPULAR GROUP of local entertainers about 50 years ago were this foursome—Charles Gregg, M. A. Anderson, N. E. Fulton and Ralph Pool.

1917 WRECK OF CAR and train brought out the local populace as it does in these days, and from the appearance of the auto, cars have been coming away second best from such engagements for a long time. Accident happened at the Sixth street crossing, which some 33 years lated was to be closed, along with five others, because of continued accidents at the unguarded crossings.

THE OLD HOSPITAL was torn down in March, 1952 to make way for the central portion of the new hospital which joined the two wings, previously built, together.

Goldanna Cook

1921 Fairbury's Greatest Year For Basketball

Fairbury high school's greatest achievement in basketball came in 1921, and had its beginning with a smallpox epidemic.

It was 36 years ago that the Green and Gold made their first and only appearance in the state basketball tournament at Champaign, and exactly how much the outbreak of smallpox had to do with it, is, of course, open to speculation, but this much is fact:

THE SMALLPOX epidemic which broke out in Bloomington was cause for the first District tournament in history being held in Fairbury, and thus the local squad—which had not built up a particularly impressive record to that time—received all of the advantage which is suppose to come to a team playing on its own floor.

FAIRBURY'S FIRST GAME was against Colfax, which they won 22-17. This was the poorest game the lads played in the tourney, the newspaper reports said. In the remainder of the games, however, "they displayed real championship form in every department of the game, something they had not done during the season."

In the second game, Atlanta, which had been a powerhouse in McLean county during the season, bowed to the Green and Gold, 13-10. The following afternoon the team hit its peak as they waltzed past Stanford, 22-11. Then came the championship game, and a 17-9 win over Saunemin.

Saunemin had advanced to the finals with a 32-12 win over Pontiac, a 16-13 win over U. High, and a 25-19 victory over Bloomington. They had beaten Fairbury twice during the season.

The starting five Fairbury players — Jim Philhour and Harley Lange at forwards, Harold Odell at center, and Reed Hanley and Walter Addis at the guards — received considerable plaudits from opposing coaches for their great defensive work, which was actually the key to their success. Philhour was chosen to the tourney all star team by the officials.

THE UNEXPECTED VICTORY propelled Fairbury into the state finals at Champaign among a field of 22 teams. The squad making the trip was composed of, in addition to the five already named, Cliff Mundell, Laural Sutton, Vernon Teal, James Smith, Ross Anderson and coach Ned Whitesell.

The team was transported to the finals by train, first going to Chenoa on the T. P. & W., and then to Bloomington. At Bloomington the squad held a practice session in the Bloomington high school gym, and then continued on by train to Champaign.

The Green and Gold met Collinsville in the opening round of the state finals on the afternoon of Thursday, March 17, and lost 21-15.

The game was not decided until midway in the final period. Collinsville took a 4-1 lead after one quarter of play, but Fairbury came back strong in the second period, scoring seven points while holding Collinsville scoreless, to take an 8-4 lead at the half.

THE THIRD QUARTER ended in an 11-11 deadlock, but Collinsville poured in ten points in the final period to take the victory.

Addis shared scoring honors for the game with Collinsville's Jokerst, each scoring 11 points. Seven of Addis' points came on free throws, the same total made by the entire Fairbury team. Collinsville outscored Fairbury in field goals, nine to four.

Collinsville went on to beat Flora, 19-17, in their second game, but then lost to Batavia 24-9. Batavia then lost to New Trier, 33-28, which in turn lost to Marion, 26-24, in the championship game.

The only team ever to represent Fairbury in the state basketball finals thus ended their season.

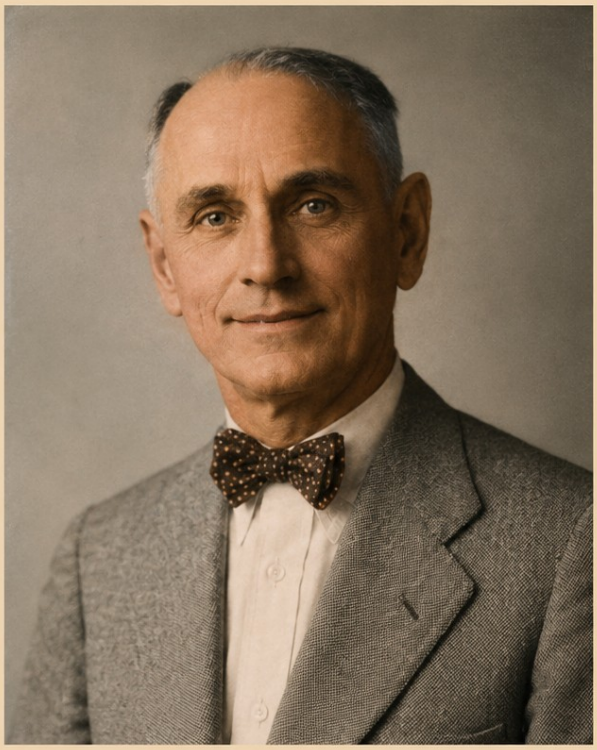
Opponent	F	O	
Chatsworth	19	24	L
Melvin	18	17	W
Forrest	32	10	W
Kankakee	17	19	L
Normal	29	10	W
Pontiac	18	20	L
Forrest	11	13	L
Saunemin	12	16	L
Forrest	15	16	L
Odell	41	20	W
Dwight	26	12	W
Forrest	11	13	L
Pontiac	9	20	L
Saunemin	17	22	L
Lexington	21	28	L
Colfax	22	17	W*
Atlanta	13	10	W*
Stanford	22	11	W*
Saunemin	17	9	W*
Collinsville	15	21	L**

* District tournament

** State Tournament

BETWEEN 1928 AND 1952, the old John J. Taylor mansion on South Fifth street housed the Fairbury hospital. It stood on the site of the present hospital.

JENNIE DOMINY (Mrs. Grant) McDowell, as she appeared dressed for a carnival here in 1890, representing the Beach and Dominy banks.



OLDEST INSURANCE Agency in Fairbury, Keck's Agency, was founded in 1893 by Charles W. Keck, left. In 1908 he was joined by his son, Perry J. Keck. Both took extremely active parts in the shaping of Fairbury history

FIRST WHITE GIRL born in what is now Livingston county was Sarepta Jane Moore, who was born June 25, 1833 on a farm about a mile south of Fairbury. She was the daughter of Richard and Perlinea Moore nd was married at the age of 18 to John Spence, whose parents were also early settlers in Indian Grove. She was the mother of Mrs. Meda Estep and W. R. Spence.

April 3, 1958
Fairbury Blade newspaper

Transcription by: Dale C. Maley
Transcription Date: May 5, 2026
Article Word Count: 7,327 words

History of the First Methodist Church
Given by Alma Lewis-James

In the fall of 1957 the Methodist Church suffered a catastrophe. With enthusiasm generated by a beautiful, newly decorated church, somebody cleaned out the cupboards in the Tower Room, and into the bonfire went the irreplaceable records of the church societies.

The only official data remaining are the two church brochures of 1887 and 1903, and the pastoral records, which were found to be incomplete.

It is for this sorry reason that the years of faithful, devoted service by individual members must go unrecorded now. These people made our church the living, vital thing it is today, and we are grateful to them.

We also wish to express our appreciation to the Blade in making their files available; to Miss Fern Carter for invaluable material and assistance; and particularly to Mrs. Ruby Baily for her unfailing patience and memory, and her skill in answering questions.

Alma Lewis-James

THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCHES

The village of Fairbury, Illinois, was surveyed November 10, 1857. During the following spring nineteen members of the Methodist Church moved there to live.

At first they held their meetings in their homes. Then, as their membership grew, they used the schoolhouse, and formally organized as a Methodist Society in July, 1858.

The following were the Charter Members: Dr. Lorenzo and Judith Beach, John Sr. and Rachel King, Catherine Kring, Mrs. Ann Delilah Kring, John Potter, Francis Moore, John Cumpston, Isaiah S. [illegible] and wife, Jacob Hunt and wife, A. J. Cropsey and wife, Randolph H. Maxwell and wife, Isam Moore and wife, and R. G. Crouch.

Their pastor was the Reverend W. J. Stubbles, who held the charge at the parent church of Avoca, and John Kring was appointed Class Leader, his lay assistant.

Immediately they began plans for the erection of a church, and two lots, 5 and 6, block 30, were bought of Caleb L. Patton, Octave Chenute and Andrew J. Cropsey, parties of the first part. The price was $50.00. The parties of the second part were the M. E. Trustees: Francis Moore, A. J. Cropsey, Lorenzo Beach, John Cumpston, John Kring, Richard G. Crouch, Sara Busse, Isam Moore and Garrison Bowen.

Largely through the efforts of Dr. Beach, the frame structure, 32 x 55 feet and costing $1,600.00, was completed and dedicated that same year. It was dedicated by the Reverend J. W. Flowers, the Presiding Elder.

That it prospered is evident in the account of Fairbury in general as printed in the Fairbury Intelligencer of August 10, 1865:

"The Methodist Church with Rev. J. G. Evans as pastor has, we learn, a membership of 150 and upwards, and a large congregation.
Their Sunday School, N. E. Lyman, superintendent, is said to be the finest in the country, having over two hundred scholars, and being conducted with ability and so as to make it interesting to all."

They were compelled to enlarge the church the following year, and this arrangement sufficed for another decade. When it, too, was outgrown, it was decided to build an entirely new one. This church was 45 x 75 feet and had a basement; and it was made of brick to resist the village fires which continually bedeviled Fairbury at that time.

They named it the Fairbury Centennial Methodist Episcopal Church, and the cornerstone was laid October 10, 1876, by the Presiding Elder, Reverend R. G. Pierce, and the Pastor, Reverend R. B. Williams.

Within the cornerstone they placed a list of the Board of Trustees: John Kring, Lorenzo Beach, W. K. Stafford, W. G. McDowell, O. P. McDowell, I. P. McDowell, James McDowell, S. G. Crull, and Wm. M. Dever.

The number of members was given as 160.

The stone also contained a card of the First National Bank; a Northwestern Christian Advocate (October 11, 1876); a copy of the Chicago Daily Inter-Ocean of the same date; a Livingston County Blade; a Fairbury Weekly Independent of October 13, 1876; a copy of the New Testament; and a 25¢ piece.

The auditorium of the new church was not quite complete at the end of the year, but the congregation assembled in the basement anyway. In honor of the occasion, one of the members, M. R. Stilwell, had cut letters from cardboard, which he gilded and strung into mottoes to bedeck the walls.

The Reverend R. G. Pierce dedicated the church, assisted by its pastor, Reverend R. B. Williams. This dedication, the paper said, was "followed by a remarkable revival resulting in the conversion of about 300 persons, more than two-thirds of whom united with the Methodist church."

Just six months after this, a tornado roared across the town, blew the parsonage from its foundations and seriously damaged it, ripped off the church roof and leveled three of the walls. On the remaining wall was left a lone festoon: "In God We Trust."

It was a crushing blow. Dr. Beach had died, but Ben Walton was a member now. Through his energy, encouragement and generosity, a third church was built on the foundation of the ruined one, while the members held their services in Fairbury Hall.

This third church was dedicated January 20, 1878, by Reverend W. H. H. Adams, D.D., of Bloomington. They now had a membership of 280, and 200 children were enrolled in the Sunday School.

In 1880 another disaster befell them. All the church records were kept in the home of Judge Woodford McDowell, and when his house caught fire and burned to the ground, the records too were lost. The data were afterwards supplied from the memories of the surviving members, and so any discrepancies in some of the lists of members are easily understandable.

This cloud was only momentary. On May 13, 1882, the newspaper reported:

"The young ladies of the M. E. Society are to hold a Doll Fair, and a Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival at the Opera House. The funds will be given to the tower fund of the M. E. Church."

Three years later, while their mothers were busy with socials to raise funds to repair the parsonage, the girls were continuing their efforts. This time they wanted a new organ, and when it was installed it was generally agreed that it was "a real pipe organ, and the finest instrument of its kind ever shipped into the country."

In 1892, the old parsonage was abandoned, sold to Mrs. Mary Haverty for $221.00, and moved away, while a new and commodious parsonage was built on the old site.

During the winter of 1894 a blizzard caused severe damage when snow blew through the roof. Repairs followed, including a new roof, redecorating, and eventually installation of electric lighting.

By the turn of the century the membership had reached 542, and the church was again overcrowded. Plans were made for a new building.

On September 19, 1902, it was announced that a new church would be built at a cost of about $20,000.00. Construction proceeded through 1903, and the church was completed that year.

The stained glass windows were memorials to members of the church, including windows dedicated to Reverend J. A. Johnson and Mrs. Mary Frances Filley.

On November 15, 1903, the church held a Dedication Day and Grand Rally, with services throughout the day and evening.

LATER HISTORY

On September 21, 1906, the Methodists held a Jubilee Meeting, celebrating the full payment of all indebtedness. The church and parsonage improvements had cost $27,003.87, and the buildings were valued at $35,000.00.

By 1920, further remodeling included new carpets, lighting, refinishing woodwork, redecorating, and improvements to the basement.

Thirty years later, overcrowding again became a problem. Additional basement space was created, but conditions upstairs continued to worsen.

With membership reaching 630, a Centennial modernization program was begun. Extensive renovations were completed in the mid-1950s at a cost of about $40,000.00, with plans for a new educational building.

PASTORS OF THE FAIRBURY METHODIST CHURCH

[Pastor list preserved exactly as transcribed]

1857 — W. J. Stubbles
1858 — W. A. Presson
1859 — B. P. Wheet and E. H. Penfield
1860–1861 — J. Grundy
1862 — S. B. Baker
1863–1864 — J. G. Evans
1865 — J. E. Rutledge

1866–1868 — S. G. Havermale
1869–1870 — W. C. Knapp
1871–1872 — William Watson
1873 — R. G. Pearce
1874 — W. P. Graves
1875–1876 — R. B. Williams
1877 — John Wilkinson
1878–1879 — F. Havermale
1880 — B. W. Baker
1881–1882 — E. S. Wilson
1883 — J. W. Haney
1884 — R. Crewes
1885 — W. McPheeters
1886 — G. R. Palmer
1887–1888 — R. B. Williams
1889–1890 — Ed Wasmuth
1891–1893 — L. F. Cullom
1894–1898 — E. S. Wilson

1899–1900 — M. A. Head
1901–1906 — J. A. Johnson
1907–1909 — M. V. Crumbaker
1910–1912 — A. Wirt Lowther
1913 — Gideon L. Powell
1914–1916 — S. A. Chapman
1917–1920 — George Thorpe

1921–1924 — D. F. Wilson
1925–1928 — John V. Kennedy
1929–1933 — M. B. Van Lear
1934–1935 — Virgil Thompson
1936–1938 — R. E. Buford
1939–1940 — M. L. O’Harra

1941–1944 — L. R. Tagg
1945–1949 — C. L. Shult (died June 5, 1949)
1949–1954 — Cecil Lockard
1955 — William Jones

The Fairbury Methodist Church had 26 pastors during its first 46 years: 1857 to 1903. The longest service by one pastor was Reverend E. S. Wilson whose two terms covered 7 years and 4 months. He was transferred here from the West Virginia Conference.

“Brother Baker was taken sick on the way to his appointment from conference and died in Chenoa, November 13, 1862. His body was interred in the Fairbury cemetery, where a monument erected to his memory. Dr. Baker was the first man appointed to Fairbury after it became a separate charge or station.

Reverend M. L. O’Harra retired from here.

Reverend R. E. Buford has retired, and the Methodist congregation is most happy that he and Mrs. Buford have returned to Fairbury to make their home.

They first came to Fairbury from Sheldon, 1936, and went from here to the First Methodist Church at Pekin, in 1939.

During those three years, Reverend Buford took in 85 members, and it was during a period when no interest could be still feeling the effects of the Depression. Church contributions everywhere had suffered greatly. Nevertheless, under Reverend Buford’s guidance, the Fairbury church was one of three in the entire Illinois Conference that paid all its commitments in full each of the three Reverend Carroll Shult died while serving this charge at Fairbury. He was taken with a stroke while making a pastoral call and died three days later, June 5, 1949, aged 50 years.

He was born May 6, 1899, at Hillsdale, Illinois, the son of Reverend Grant Shult and Hettie Belle Aledough. He attended the Williamsfield High School and attended the Willamette College in Aledo; studied two years at Hed- ding College, Abingdon, Illinois; received his B. S. degree from Northwestern and his Doctor of Divinity from Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois.

He married Miss Doris Pease of Burgess, Illinois, December 21, 1922, and became a member of the Central Illinois Conference in 1923. He came to Fairbury in 1945.

For several years he was secretary of the Committee on Ministerial Qualifications for the Illinois Conference, and at the time of his death he had been a member of the Conference Board of Education and was Director of Religious Education for the Bloomington District.

Surviving him are his wife; three sons, Ernest, Dale and Don; and three daughters, Mrs. Earl Hancock, of Northbrook; Mrs. Charles L. Jackson, of Kalamazoo, Michigan; and Mrs. Tom Carter, of Fairbury.

EARLY ORGANIZATION AND REVIVALS

The Fairbury church remained an appointment and part of the Avoca Circuit until 1863 when it was made a separate charge.

There have been four different charges or conference appointments in this section:

Fairbury Circuit, 1862 to 1875.
Fairbury Circuit, North, 1866.
Fairbury Circuit, South, 1866.
Fairbury Station, 1863.

All these appointments were closely related to Methodism in Fairbury and vicinity.

Between the services conducted by the circuit riders preacher, the congregation for convenience was divided into neighborhood Class Leaders, who conducted the worship service in the absence of the pastor.

There were nine Class Leaders in the circuit. John M. McDowell taught one class at the Avoca church and Robert Chambers the second. John Kring taught the first class at the Fairbury church, and Jacob Hunt the second. Francis Moore was a farmer at Grum and taught a class at the Tanner Schoolhouse. Robert Moore at his schoolhouse, Dr. Crum at the Fairbury Review Schoolhouse and Grace Wilson at McKeown's Schoolhouse. This latter was cut off to the Chenoa Circuit.

These classes were all united in the Avoca Circuit and the Circuit in turn belonged to a District presided over by the Presiding Elder.

In the early days of the Fairbury church, the Presiding Elders were not selected because of his executive work, but for his spiritual mindedness, preaching ability and evangelistic zeal.

It was his duty to preside over the Quarterly Meeting. This meeting, which included the entire Circuit, was held in the various member churches and lasted for several days.

It was felt that it was hard for a Methodist to "backslide" when he had the privileges of an old fashioned Quarterly Meeting four times a year.

Their Love Feasts, in the early days of the Methodist Church, were testimonial meetings to which only the loyal, faithful members of the church were invited. Bread and water were passed in commemoration of their Common Brotherhood. After the Love Feast was the preaching, followed by Communion.

At the time of the Fairbury church, it had come to mean a short testimonial meeting after the regular sermon. It never lasted more than fifteen minutes. They gave the favorite Bible verses and suggestions for the church.

Revival Meetings were frequent and Protracted Meetings were held by every Methodist preacher at every preaching place in the Circuit, usually in the winter, when the attention of the congregation was undivided, and they lasted two weeks or longer if the interest required. Intended primarily for the conversion of sinners, the Revivals also included "the Mourners" and refreshing.

A Basket Meeting: one that they took their dinners with them in a basket.

With the turn of the century the revivals began to lose their momentum. In 1905, during February, the Methodists had a month's revival meetings under the leadership of the noted evangelists Harry and Maggie, and in 1914 they joined with the other Protestant Churches to bring the Honeywell revival

team to Fairbury. A large tabernacle was built on the site of the old Thomas House, complete with sawdust in the aisles and one of the outstanding attractions of the services was the great choir composed of members from the local churches.

Dr. Honeywell was up to the minute in his approach to his audience, and he believed in letting people know he was in town. One day during the services there was a parade down Main Street of small boys dressed to represent the various nations, and each carried a placard to advertise the revival services.

One minor outcome of these Union Revival services was the church series baseball games the following summer. The boys teams from the Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Christian churches played some nine games which were enthusiastically attended.

Every community developed during the Civil War and Reconstruction periods had its full share of rowdies. The point of difference with Fairbury was that it was the more richly endowed.

Every preacher expected this turbulence during his sermons that stretched for hours. Bean-shooters and window-pane rapping were merely commonplace. Revival services, anywhere, received the ardent attentions of young drunkards. Stones and clubs were flung through the open windows in summer and red pepper (a very effective form of tear gas) was poured on the tops of heating stoves in winter. Frequently the services were broken up with just plain noise.

To be a successful preacher, one needed a quick wit and a strong arm.

Fairbury, however, was known far and wide for its young hooligans who lurked in the dark alleys and struck down unsuspecting pedestrians from behind. Ministers of the cloth, intent upon their Quarterly Meetings, were not exempt.

At first a convenient length of hose was used to stun the victim, but soon a more efficient weapon was developed. It became known as the “stuffed club,” and it was widely used in Fairbury among the theatre crowds and Saturday night shoppers. The victims were so numerous that when a club was finally captured and put on exhibition at the Blade office, it drew crowds eager to inspect it.

It proved to be a canvas sack, six inches in diameter and twelve inches long. It was tightly stuffed with excelsior and coarse salt, and this was tied to a stick two feet long. As a weapon, it had range, weight and flexibility, and quite easily knocked a man unconscious.

Anyone attending Quarterly Conference in Fairbury learned to be unusually wary.

A few well placed arrests finally put a stop to the “stuffed clubs,” and in 1890 the exasperated villagers gathered the rest of the trouble with an Ordinance providing a $25.00 fine for anyone maliciously disturbing any church service.

SOCIALS

Now the early Methodists stood strongly against every variety of dancing and card playing. Instead, every effort was made to provide harmless entertainment for both children and adults.

The most popular form of this was the “Socials.” They were held about once a month, usually in the homes of the church members, and they speedily became a polite type of social warfare.

The beginnings were simple. For instance, there was the “Carpet Ball Social,” which was popular in the 1870’s. Every lady brought a ball of carpet rags which were discarded pieces of cloth torn into strips and then sewed together for the weaving of the ever popular rag rugs. In the care of her ball, the lady put her name. During the evening all the balls were auctioned off to the gentlemen, who unwound them to discover their partners and escort them into a supper of oysters, hot coffee and cake.

The socials became a gauge of social standing, and in order for the Blade to report that the elegant parlors were crowded, something unique to intrigue the interest of the fickle public was necessary.

Mrs. McDowell held an “Avoirdupois Social,” the John Virgins a “Peanut Tea.” The invitations for the latter were sent out in peanut shells tied with ribbons.

The Davy Sharps held a “Pink Tea.” There were hammocks under the trees for this one, and the lawn was bright with torchlights. The meetings of the class, intent upon their Quarterly Meetings, were evident with the elaborate letters cut from pink cardboard and carefully inserted into each dish of ice cream.

A torch, it should be explained, was a covered iron cup with a wick in it, and it held whale oil.

At socials and lawn parties, a torch was tied to a stick of the desired length and stuck in the ground for illumination.

They had Pie Socials and Oyster Suppers.

In Fairbury oysters came in cans and were popular both fried and in stew. Occasionally at a “rare” or “cheap” fair, a prankster would slip in a rubber oyster to disconcert the fastidious.

Dominys gave for Socials and the men this was advised beforehand because it was for the benefit of the parsonage fund.

“Corn hulled with milk,
Corn, mush with milk.”
Corn bread
Corn starch cake
Corned beef
Corn starch blanc mange
Corn popped
Sweet corn
Coffee

The Epworth League likewise raised money with a “Lemon Squeeze” held at Maple’s Hall.

“Menu
Lemonade — Lemon wafers
Potatoes Hotel de Maitre
Lemon Charlotte Russe
Lemon Jelly
Lemon Caramel cake – Lemon Pie

Lemon Jelly Cake — Meats
Celery — Pickles — Slaw
Lemon ice — 10 cents extra
A program will be given”

In season, the strawberry and ice cream socials were tremendously popular. Sometimes these were homemade festivals, and were held at the Opera House. The little tables for those taking refreshments were set in the middle of the floor, and they were waited upon by the prettiest girls wearing the prettiest aprons. The space around the walls was reserved for the Promenaders, who walked elegantly to and fro and conversed with their friends.

For the “Pound Social,” the friends called before the hosts or hostess to bring a pound of sugar, meat, butter, beans, dried fruits, canned fruits, crackers, soap, starch, dry goods, and even money. Such donations were used to help an impoverished family or their own underpaid minister.

By 1905, however, all this procession of socials for raising money for church purposes had demoralized the congregation. The women were exhausted with the housecleaning and cooking involved, and the men’s stomachs could endure no more.

In September, a Conference of Laity of Central Illinois Methodist Episcopal Conference resolutions were adopted recommending church socials for evenings in favor of good plain living.

THE OLD FOLKS DINNERS

The pioneer settlers of the vicinity were always eager for reunions and they early formed an Old Settlers Society. Anyone who had lived here 15 years or more was eligible for membership.

The Fairbury Fair featured a special day for them, complete with a log cabin for their special enjoyment, and for some years the Methodist Old Folks Dinners were major social events.

There was a bond of affection among the early settlers that is completely incomprehensible today. The loneliness they had endured together, the homesickness, the bitter days they had struggled with raw nature to make a simple living, created a community of feeling that endured until death.

Together they had put up each other’s houses and barns, together they had helped each other in the fields and homes. Together they assisted at the births, celebrated the weddings, and buried the sick, but they died there.

When death occurred to a Methodist member, it was a team from the church who came to wash and dress the corpse for burial, and from them the team was composed of men; for a Sister of women’s assistance was still in the distance in 1910.

For the survivors, the church members cared for livestock and crops, attended to the households, and adopted the orphans into their own families.

One of the most successful Old Folks Dinners was given August 28, 1904, when the church, the Epworth League, under the supervision of the Mercy and Help department, entertained the old members of the church and congregation, to the number of about sixty persons. The special guests of the day were fifty-four men and women whose combined ages amounted to the astonishing number of

three thousand, nine hundred and twenty-nine years. The average age was found to be but a slight fraction below seventy-three years. It was indeed a notable gathering of the Old Saints of Fairbury.

Only about two-thirds of these venerable people were able to attend, because of sickness or the infirmities of age.

About ten o'clock in the morning, they were brought to the church in carriages provided by the Ladies' Aid, and the morning hour till noon were spent in social converse and visiting. They were busy refreshing each other's memories of the great events and happenings of thirty, forty and fifty years ago. At noon, they were invited to repair to the parlors of the church, where the young people of the church had prepared for them a splendid chicken dinner, with all the usual accompaniments, with ice cream and cake for dessert.

After dinner they looked through the new church and resumed their visiting. At two o'clock they were seated in the auditorium, and were entertained for a short while by Miss Olive McKee and Miss Fern Swarm. This was followed by the old people singing some of the old hymns of the church, a short address by the pastor, and closing with an old-fashioned class-meeting in which many of them took part. At four o'clock their pictures were taken in front of the church, after which they were taken to their homes in carriages. Thus closed a notable and most enjoyable day for the old people.

The young people of the Methodist church are to be commended for these thoughtful and kindly ministrations. Our old people deserve it all. Our hands clasp.

The following are the names of those present: Mrs. David Sharp, Mrs. Swazze, Mrs. Susan Baker, Mrs. Matilda Veatch, Mrs. Rauch, Mrs. Ellen Catton, Mrs. Nancy Town, Mrs. M. E. Davis, Mrs. J. Bove, Mrs. Jane Townsend, Mrs. H. H. Gravina, Mrs. Matheny, Mrs. F. S. Wilson, Mrs. Geo. Goshoru, Mrs. T. A. Beach, Mrs. Cilla Mrs. W. H. Taylor, Mrs. Jane Dawson, Mrs. M. C. Crouch, Mrs. Hariet Hilton, Mrs. C. Powell, Mrs. David Wright, Mrs. M. J. Carman, Mrs. J. Kring, Mrs. E. J. Hurdley, Mrs. C. R. Sims, Mrs. Lucinda Williams, Mrs. Platt, Mrs. J. Moore, Mrs. H. A. Baylor, Mrs. J. W. Harold, Mrs. S. R. Crull, Mrs. M. Rose, Mrs. Canna Pool, Mrs. M. D. Street, Mrs. Geo. Kilbury, Mrs. Henry Webster and Mrs. Lucinda Cook, Messrs. T. A. Beach, James Kirby, David Sharp, J. Kring, T. S. Rariden, C. B. Ostrander, J. Lowe, A. Filley, J. B. Lawrence, E. Marsh, H. C. Ravenecroft, Geo. Goshorn, T. C. Davis, S. Dancy, Hugh McKee and A. R. Matheny.

THE METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL

Less than a year after the Methodist Society of Fairbury was founded, they established a Sunday School. Mr. N. E. Lyman was the Superintendent, and the program was an immediate and outstanding success.

The other churches of the town started Sunday Schools too, and since their hours of services varied, one enterprising group of Methodist girls discovered it was possible to attend all three. They thus alleviated, in no small way, the boredom of the Blue Sundays observed at that time.

First, the girls went to the Baptist Sunday School, and then came back over to the Methodist church for the preaching service. At twelve o'clock they walked over to the Presbyterian Sunday School after which they went home to dinner. At two o'clock, when the Methodist Sunday School convened, and the girls were there in time.

Preaching services were at “The First Presbyterian Church.” These services increased to this schedule: 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Class Meeting was 12.

Sunday School — 2:30 p.m.

Prayer Meeting was Wednesday evening.

Young People’s Meeting was one time 7:30 p.m.

Women’s Foreign Missionary Society — 2:30 p.m. the last Thursday of the month.

Choir, Thursday evening.

Not long after the erection of their new church, the Sunday School became the source of incredible and painful embarrassment. Over a period of years Sunday School outsiders had watched in silent horror as concerts were presented to packed audiences. The first Mrs. Ida Bower, an accomplished musician, drilled the children, and led them in the performance of songs, recitations, essays and dialogues.

In the summer time the usual Sunday School picnics and took the children out to nearby woods on hay racks. July 14, 1885, “several hundred children went to Taylor’s Grove where they had swings and croquet sets. They took their own dinners, but had free lemonade. The Juvenile band furnished the music.

During the winter there was the excitement of the Christmas Entertainments. In 1878 the Blade carried an announcement: “The Christmas service at the M. E. Church will consist of ‘Christmas Chimes’, and a tree with presents for the children. Parents will be expected to furnish presents for their own children, as far as possible. Everybody is invited to use the tree as a medium to make presents to their friends. A competent committee will have charge of all articles left with them.”

(Their Christmas tree, of course, was lit by little wax candles and hung with popcorn strings and cookies.)

In 1881, at their Christmas Exercises, there was “a huge elephant drawing a handsomely decorated passenger car that came from behind a curtain. Santa was on top of the car holding the lines driving the elephant. Inside the car were fifteen little girls in white with blue sashes and gold cornets. On the breast of each was a gold letter spelling Merry Christmas. They sang carols and distributed gifts.”
The program of 1887, however, might have been a tragedy. “The Christmas doings at the various churches were very successfully carried out, with the exception of a slight mishap at the M. E. This edifice was well filled, and the presents handsomely arranged on a structure representing a cabin, this latter being covered with cotton in representation of snow. After the exercises, and during the distribution of presents, the cotton unfortunately took fire from a burning taper and in an instant the entire structure was enveloped in flames. Prompt action, however, saved the presents, and prevented any serious damage to the church. Several window lights were broken, and, of course, the carpets and furniture were somewhat soiled. The occupants of the church, as soon as the fire started, made a rush to get out, which was accomplished without anyone sustaining serious injury.”

In 1893 the Methodist program “drew an enormous crowd.” Logan Kring was St. Nick, and Lilly

Churchill presided at the organ.

Eighteen ninety-nine found them still filled with patriotism from the Spanish-American War. Admission was to be ten cents. “A beautiful battleship will be one of the novel features of the entertainment. It will sail into the audience loaded with luxuries for the little ones.”

For year around interest, they maintained a thriving lending library for the children. (This was before the Dominy Memorial Library was presented to the town.) A Book Social held at Maple’s Opera House cleared $21.00 for new books.

Later — about the time of the First World War — they had a rousing Sunday School Orchestra. Logan Kring, who played the trombone in it, was the leader.

Only a few lists of Sunday School officers are available now, but in 1899 the Superintendent was Mr. I. H. Shover.

Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. H. I. Reynolds; Secretary, Dora Thornton; Treasurer, Nellie Goshorn; Organist, Fred Bethard; Chorister, C. W. Neitz; Librarians, Josie Patton and Mrs. Zella Baker; and Class Librarians, Bessie Bethard and Edith Mitten.

In 1894 the Superintendent was Mr. W. W. Wonser.

Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. G. C. Lewis; Secretary, Ida Crull; Treasurer, Edna Ross; Librarians, Vinna Earnheart, Jessie Blakesley, Carrie Harn; Chorister, Logan Kring; Assistant Chorister, Orra Phillips; Organist, Lura Kirby; Assistant Organist, Deane Earnheart; Artist, Pearl Moats; Assistant Artist, Henry Schwab.

Other Sunday School Superintendents have been Mrs. Logan Kring, Mrs. Harry Reynolds, Henry Schade, Grey Scott, and Roy Melvin.

I. H. Shover served in 1903; Andrew Steidinger, 1940; Keith Anderson, 1942; Mrs. Debold Householder, 1945-1950; Wayne Newnam, 1951-1957.

Sunday School Teachers

The Sunday School teachers in 1887 were Fannie Stafford, Hannah F. Skinner, Maggie Evans, Sarah Walton, Ida F. Patton, Isaac Kerr, Lillie McDowell, Jessie Doming, Lizzie Carman, Mary Young, Mary E. Westervelt, G. B. Gordon, C. W. Neitz, Prof. J. E. Bangs, H. H. Stafford, Miss Margaret Maloney, Jennie Dominy.

In 1903 they were Rev. J. A. Johnson, Mrs. J. A. Johnson, Lloyd Dancey, Mrs. I. O. McCullough, Logan Kring, Ida Adams, Charles W. Neitz, J. G. Francis, Edna Clift, Charles Swarm, Mary Bennett, Viola Payne, Ed E. Meharry, Prof. W. S. Perry, Myrtle Stafford, D. W. Barnes, George Day, Dora Thornton, Mrs. Charles Swarm.

The Divisional Superintendents of the 1957 Sunday School are: Pre-School through Grade 3, Mrs. Harvey Day; Grades 4 through 6, Mrs. Robert Maurer; Grades 7 through 8, Mrs. Tom Carter; Youth Division, John McNeil; Adult Division, Miss Dorothy Rudd.

Presidents of the Board of Trustees

The Presidents of the Board of Trustees were I. P. McDowell, 1887; John Will McDowell, 1903; J. [missing word in newspaper] 1940-1948; Phil Hotaling, 1950-1951; Clifford Denker, 1957.

THE CHOIR

Always, one of the highlights of the Methodist preaching services was the music by their choir. In 1887 the members were Edna Barnes, Ora Phillips, Nettie Lough, Ida Mahoney, Lura Houseworth, William Skinner, Harry Amsbary and L. J. Pfaat. Charlie Neitz was the leader, and Mabel Rogers the organist.

Logan Kring was a faithful member of the choir for 52 years until his failing eyesight compelled him to give it up.

From the early days of the Fairbury church the Methodist children have been organized into a choir of their own, and this program has grown into the present four groups.

The Cherubs (boys and girls of the first four grades of school) number 33.

The Seraphs are 28 girls in grades 5 to 8.

The Choristers are 16 boys in grades 5 to 8.

The Chapel Singers are 13 High School boys and girls.

In addition to these are the Wesleyana Singers (13 women's voices only) and the Chancel Choir (composed of 20 mixed voices.)

Each choir practices weekly and the directors include 6 volunteers and one paid director. The practice sessions of the younger children have become especially popular because of the suppers served them afterwards by the members of the Wesleyana Circle.

The church is exceptionally fortunate in its accomplished and talented Music Committee: Mrs. E. F. Dickey, Mrs. Curtis Weeks, Mrs. Logan Wilson, Mrs. Everett Sutter, Mrs. Harley Bedell, Mrs. Keith Anderson, Mrs. Charles Veatch, Jr., Mrs. James Goold, and Stanley Weeks.

THE PASTOR'S AID SOCIETY

"The members of the church met Feb. 20, 1887, following a previous notice for the purpose of forming a society in the interest of the M. E. Church."

Reverend Palmer, pastor, called the meeting to order and read the constitution, by-laws and pledge that had been written. They were adopted as read. The name of the Society was to be known as the Pastor's Aid Society, and the following officers were elected:

President—Mrs. J. R. Stillwell.
Vice President—Mrs. J. W. Walton.
Secretary—Mrs. H. H. Stafford.

Treasurer—Mrs. H. J. Ramsey. There were managers and assistants appointed for each quarter of the town to call on members and new-comers and take care of any work to be done. Various entertainments, dinners, teas and socials were given to raise money. On Dec. 28, 1909, the ladies gave $500.00 to the pipe organ fund. The organ was purchased and installed in 1910.

It was dedicated that same year with an organ recital by a town.

The Pastor's Aid Society became a committee from the W.S.C.S. to assist with the pastoral calls, and three of their members were appointed from each quarter of town. This committee has fallen into disuse.

THE LADIES AID

In 1903 the Ladies Aid had the following officers:

President—Mrs. H. J. Ramsey
Vice President—Mrs. T. S. O. McDowell
Secretary—Mrs. Pearl Hawk
Treasurer—Mrs. J. P. Mitten

Other presidents were Mrs. Dora Bennett, Mrs. Lottie Householder, and Mrs. Edith Steidinger, 1938-39. Mrs. Sue Lange held office in 1939-40.

THE WOMEN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The Women's Foreign Missionary Society was organized shortly before 1887. It is listed in the brochure of that date as meeting the last Thursday of each month at 2:30 p.m.

Their minutes book of 1899 gives the following officers:

President—Mrs. Samuel Dancey
First Vice President—Mrs. E. S. Wilson
Second Vice President—Mrs. L. B. Dominy
Recording Secretary—Mrs. C. E. Patmore
Corresponding secretary—Mrs. Carter

Treasurer—Mrs. H. A. Presler
Mite Box Superintendents—Mrs. James Carter, Mrs. Wright.

The next April their book contained a notation: "The Society forgot to have any meeting at all—too busy about housecleaning."

The 1903 officers were:

President—Mrs. J. A. Johnson
Vice President—Mrs. E. S. Wilson, Mrs. James Kirby, Mrs. F. M. Patton.

Recording secretary—Mrs. C. E. Patmore

Corresponding secretary—Mrs. Isaac Walton
Mite Box Secretaries—Mrs. G. C. Lewis, Mrs. George Day
Treasurer—Mrs. A. L. McKee

Mrs. G. C. Lewis was the president of the local society for a number of years, and she was also the W. F. M. S. president of the Kankakee District.

It was through her and her husband, Dr. G. C. Lewis, that the society supported two medical missionaries. The first was Miss Eva A. Gregg, R. N., who became a personal friend of the Lewis family. She went to China in 1912, and for many years she was superintendent of the Isabella Fisher Hospital in Tientsin. By her efforts the Ella Home was built for the nurses, so named in honor of Ella Gregg, her mother, and Ella Lewis.

The second medical missionary was Dr. Alexander Kemp. He and his wife were sent to Quessua, Angola, Africa, in 1923. Under his care was a hospital and clinic, a school for girls, and a boys' school which had both agricultural and industrial departments.

The special pride of the Society, however, was their very own Missionary, Fern Carter, who went to India. Her grandmother, Mrs. James Carter, and her mother, Mrs. Mollie Carter, both were faithful, devoted workers in the Society for many years. The latter served as president.

Fern was born on a farm near Wing, Illinois, March 4, 1900, the oldest of three children, a brother and sister. In 1903 the family moved to a 320 acre farm south of Thawville, attending the church and Sunday School there, and she joined the church there when 13 years old.

She attended the Veatch school, District 197, Iroquois County, until the 8th grade when the family moved to Fairbury. She graduated from the Fairbury High School in 1918; attended Illinois State Normal University for two summers; graduated from the University of Illinois in 1925 with a B. A. degree; and attended the Chicago Theological Seminary in 1934. Following this, she taught her sister Ann's school while she went to college.

In January, 1928, Fern sailed for India, going by way of England. She was the manager of the Boarding Department of the girls' school there, which had 200 pupils from the first grade through high school. Fern taught in the high school, and was the adviser for the local Women's Missionary and Temperance Society, and the Epworth League.

Returning to the States in March 1933, she went back again to India in 1934. This time she was appointed to the District Evangelistic and Educational Work at Nadiad, India, but she had served only a little over a year when she was stricken with polio.

Since that time Fern has devoted her efforts to the Fairbury church, and her wheel chair has become a center dynamo of saintly power. She is beloved and cherished by everyone of the congregation.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETIES

There was a Young People's Missionary Society, of course, for both boys and girls. Clarence Dexter was President; Roy Robinson, secretary; and Bertha Chapman, Treasurer. Later, after the boys had lost all interest, the girls' societies of Standard Bearers, and the juniors King's Heralds were organized and throve enthusiastically.

THE WOMEN'S HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The Women's Home Missionary Society devoted its efforts to the Cunningham Home, a children's institution at Urbana, Illinois, and the Langleyville Settlement House at Langleyville, Illinois.

It was a large organization, and the attendance averaged 75 to 80 at every meeting. Some of the presidents were Mrs. Charles Day, Mrs. Jessie Love, Mrs. Melvin Anderson, Mrs. O. L. Veatch, Mrs. Ralph Deputy, and Mrs. Will Henning. Mrs. Elmer Baily was the last of their presidents before the reorganization. She took office in 1935.

They also had an associate society for children, the Mission Band. In 1903 Eva Barnes was President; Mamie Westervelt and Erma Neitz, Vice Presidents; Lillian Hassenfratz, Secretary; Lawrence Wilson, Treasurer. Later this became the Queen Esthers (Maxine Lange was the 1940 President) and the Mothers Jewels for the younger children.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

In 1940 the entire Methodist church reorganized the groups within it. The Ladies Aid, the Pastors' Guild, the Women's Home Missionary Society, and the Women's Foreign Missionary Society united to form the Women's Society of Christian Service. Mrs. Jessie Love was the first President of the new organization taking office in 1940 and serving four years. Mrs. Walter Henning and Mrs. Harry Newnam also served four years each, successively; Mrs. Lester Pearson in 1951; Mrs. E. M. Gerdes, 1953; Mrs. Hugh Vansickle, 1956; and Mrs. Edgar Runyon, 1957.

They have ninety-four members, with an average attendance of thirty.

WESLEYANA CIRCLE

The Wesleyana Circle is a junior branch of the W. S. C. S., composed of young mothers and working girls who are unable to attend afternoon meetings.

They organized in 1950 with 33 members and have now grown to 60 meeting the third Monday of the month in the homes of the members.

They sponsor the annual Mother and Daughter Banquets given near Mother's Day; help with the annual Chicken Pie Supper; and furnish the help for one day a month at the Hospital Snack Bar. With the money they have made they have bought various things for the church kitchen, such as the stainless steel ware, punch bowl and cups, and films for the Sunday School.

Their chairmen have been: Betty Ficklin, 1950; Helen Streib, 1951; Marie Wessels, 1952; Eula Mae Veatch, 1953; Melba Wilson, 1954; Dolorous Steidinger, 1955; Arends, 1956; Jan McNeil, 1957.

THE MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

A class of Methodist men met together as the Men's Brotherhood in 1940, with Phil Hotaling as their president. It has grown into what is now a chartered group of 35 members. They are known as the Methodist Men and meet regularly. Hartzell Horine was their president in 1951, and Lloyd Woodward has that office now.

THE METHODIST YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

From the very founding of the town, Literary Societies were extremely popular in Fairbury. Their members took themselves seriously in their search for culture, and so it was no astonishing thing that the Methodist boys and girls formed a Literary Society, too. All of the members were about sixteen years old, and they met at the various homes.

Sometimes for their programs they gave "Dialogues", or one-act plays, and one of these performances took place at the Filley residence. The dining room was used as the stage, the kitchen was the dressing room, and their parents were jam-packed into the sitting room and parlor. Charlie Neitz led the singing, and then they gave their play.

From this literary Society, the Epworth League was organized in 1890. The members met at the church at 7 o'clock every Sunday evening. Charlie Neitz was the first President, an office he held for over four years.

By 1896 they had 150 members, and were reported to be in a flourishing condition. They gave frequent socials for various projects, one of which was a benefit for the Cubans.

In 1903 the officers were as follows:
President—Ira McCullough

First Vice President—C. W. Neitz.

Second Vice President—Ida Adams

Third Vice President—Jennie Clift.

Fourth Vice President—Elizabeth Neff

Secretary—Charles Steinberg.
Treasurer—U. S. Swarm

May 5, 1909, the following officers were elected:
President—Charles Steinberg.
First Vice President, Miss Mayme Westervelt.
Second Vice President, Charles Maunder.
Third Vice President, Miss Greta Shover.
Fourth Vice President, Miss Edith Mitten
Secretary—Harry Branvig
Treasurer, Logan Kring.
Organist, Miss Mary Crumbaker
Assistant Organist, Miss Fern Morton.
Chorister, Logan Kring.

The last President of the Epworth League was Hugh Henning, 1940.

A Junior Epworth League, which met at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoon, provided similar worship for slightly younger group of children. In 1903 their officers were as follows:
Superintendent, Mrs. W. S. Perry
President, Gertrude Shook
First Vice President, Eva Barnes.

Second Vice President, Anna Ginther.

Third Vice President, Mayme Westervelt.

Fourth Vice President, Leona James.

Secretary, Bethel Zook
Treasurer, Lawrence Wilson
Librarian, Lillian Hassenfratz.
Organist, Lucretia Mitten.

Chorister, Erma Neitz.

About 1942 the Methodist Youth Fellowship was organized from the League members, with Bette Newmann as the first president; 1945—Marilyn Steidinger; 1947—Joan Kelson; 1951—Robert Cummins, Jr. The present president is Carol Melvin.

The Youth Fellowship, with an average attendance of 18, meets every Wednesday evening. Mr. Willis Shay is their Counselor.

Images

This long article had quite a few images. ChatGPT was used to repair and/or colorize these images. The images will be displayed below.

Methodist Church Epworth Leane Mission Study class of 1902 is, left to right, back row, Charles Steinberg, Bertha Ward, Charlie Sutton, Charlie Neitz, Milt Kelley, Edith Kilbury and Alec Powell.

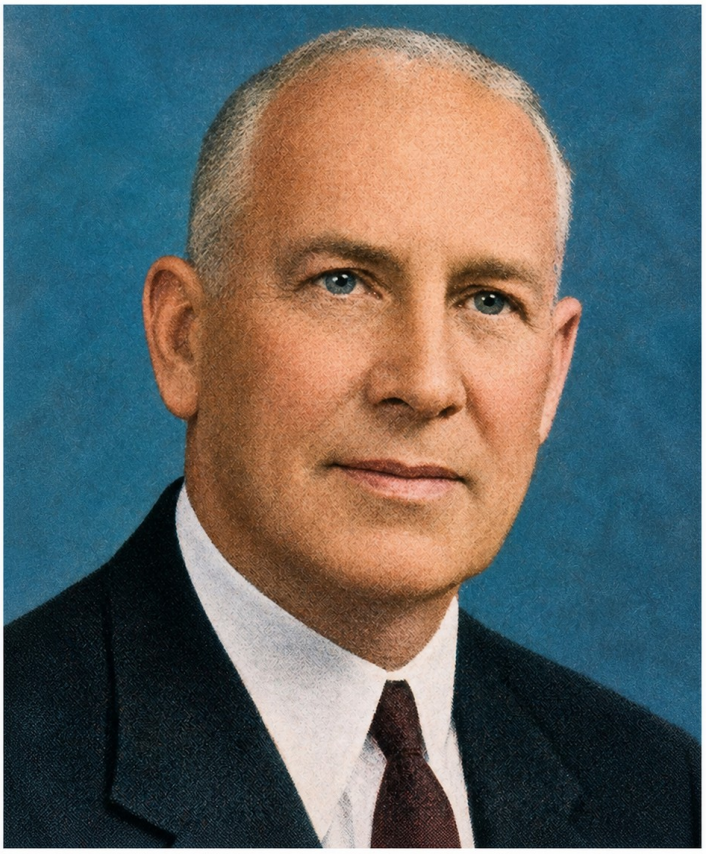
In the front are Greta Shover Stewart, Rev. Johnson, Jennie Dancey Walker, Earl Bailey, Hazel Sheppard Brown.

A 1938 Methodist Sunday School Class is shown above. From left to right they are Mary Eleanor Combes Woodruff, the teacher; Barbara Weeks Traub, Lyle Wessels, Dean Moser, Harley Wagenseller and Richard Mowry.

Second Methodist Church building, constructed in 1876, was leveled by tornado.

NOTE: The building behind the damaged church is the wood frame school building built in 1860. It was replaced in 1895 by the brick South Side school, later renamed Isaac Walton school.

Rev. C. L. Shult was pastor ol the First Methodist Church from 1945 to 1949, when he suffered a stroke while visiting a member of his congregation and died three days later, on June 5.



The Rev. R. E. Buford.

Charles Neitz

Rev. Wirt Lowther,
pastor 1910—1912.

MISC TRANSCRIPTION NOTES

This April 3, 1958, Centennial edition of the Blade was a massive publication compared to the usual volume of the weekly paper. It was probably a challenge to accept articles from many people, then fix them and then set the type correctly.

This long article has several errors including missing words or wrong punctuation. For the most part, these errors were left in place. The transcription retains the original spelling and grammar except where noted.

Dale C. Maley

Fairbury IL Historian

May 5, 2026

This picture of the Fairbury Christian church was taken not too many years following its erection in 1894. Note the small trees which surround it. Seen from the same position today, their branches cover most of the upper portion of the building.

Local Christian Church Starts In Year 1868

The Fairbury Christian Church had its beginning in the year 1868 with nine charter members: Namely, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. John Adkins, Mr. and Mrs. Hotchkiss, Mrs. McCurdy, Mrs. Lizzie Spence and Mrs. DeFord. The Rev. J. B. McCorkle was the first to introduce this faith to Fairbury and organized the Church. The first place of meeting was a room over a wagon shop. Later a building was purchased from the Presbyterians and used for a time. It was in the year 1894, during the pastorate of the Rev. J. W. Porter that the present building, at First and Walnut, was dedicated. These were trying days and took a lot of faith as well as labor.

Miller Hotaling, father of P. M. Hotaling, very faithfully stood by the work of the Church for many years. Two of his daughters, Mrs. Edna Barnes and Mrs. Leola Ploense are still faithful to the cause. A son, the late Lewis R. Hotaling, was given to the Ministry.

The life of the Congregation ebbed and flowed. After various removals and discouragements and in 1880 there was a reorganization by the Rev. A. M. Markle.

Other very faithful workers in the early years, to name only a few, were Mr. and Mrs. Christian Amsler, Mr. and Mrs. George Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. James Besgrove, Mr. and Mrs. John Meek and daughter, Mrs. Janie Meek Compton; Mrs. Chloe Pulsipher and daughter, Mrs. Nettie Compton; Mrs. Viola Critchfield, Ed Dillon, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Dillon, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Vickery, Mr. and Mrs. M. N. Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Wood, V. L. Dally, Mr. and Mrs. James Ross, who gave their two sons, Rev. C. M. Ross and Dr. Roy Ross, to the Ministry. There were many others who were faithful workers in Church, Bible School, Christian Endeavor and Ladies Aid Society that can not be mentioned here.

Church membership in 1914 numbered 163 with a Sunday School enrollment of 80. At the present time the membership is less than half this number. Many are deceased, a few moved away and some went to seek employment elsewhere.

Ministers came and went. Among those on record as holding the longest time pastorates was the Rev. W. C. Chapman who spent twelve years on the field, living in the house next to the Church now occupied by Mrs. Herbert Sutton. Rev. Chapman left Fairbury in 1928. In 1945 he observed his 50th anniversary in the ministry. In honor of the occasion the Church at Harrisville, New York, where he had been pastor for several years gave him a surprise dinner and program. His only son, Wilbur Chapman, had the honor of being the youngest S. S. Superintendent ever elected to the Fairbury Church after his first year in high school. He graduated from Eureka Bible College and while working for his degree in Chicago filled the pulpit in Fairbury for a year. He was pastor at a church in New York State when last heard from.

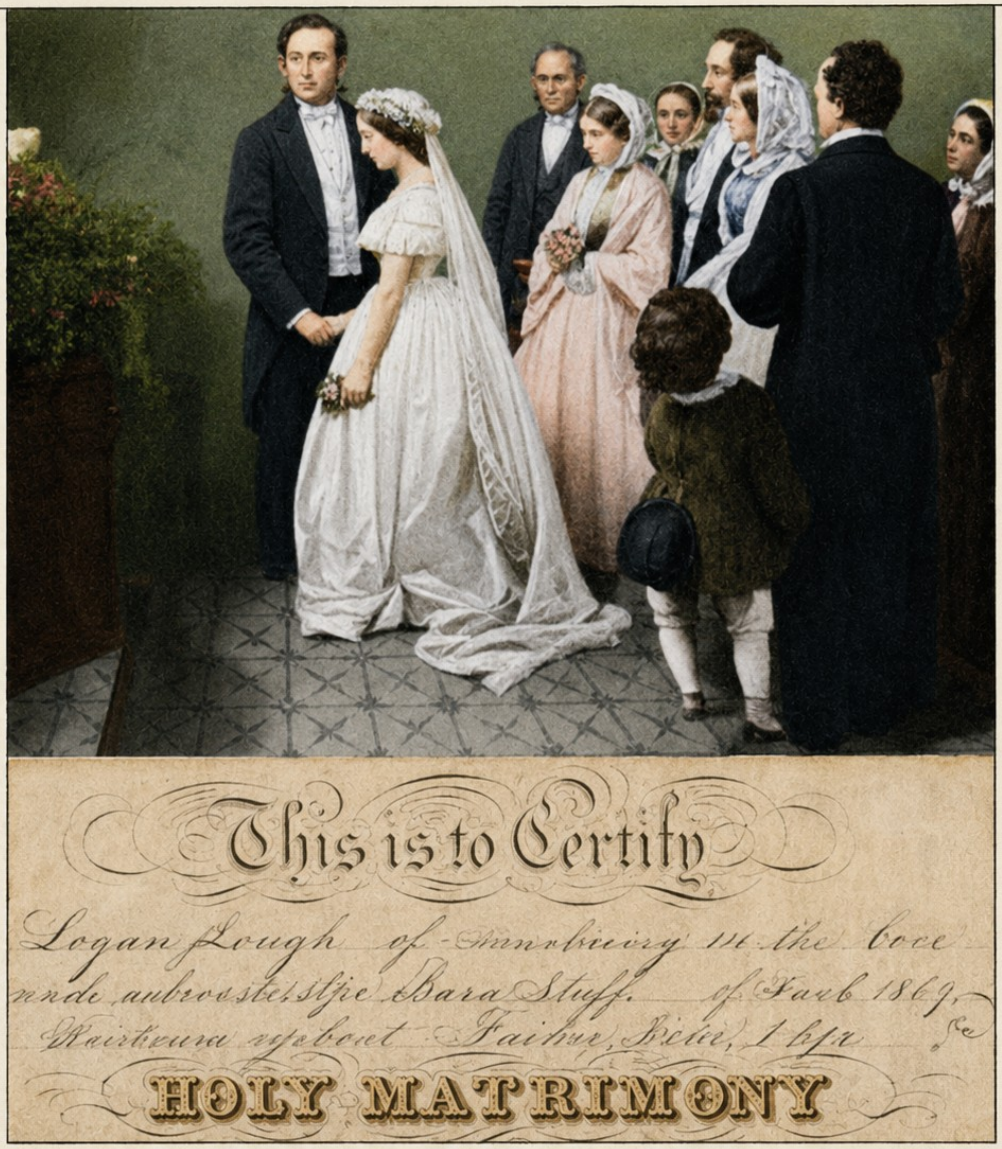
The Fairbury Church had the late Rev. Charles D. Hougham, of Bloomington, for an eight year pastorate beginning Aug. 17, 1930 and ending in August 1938. Three very successful revivals were held during the time.

The Church has done a missionary work for a number of years by giving Bible students a start in the ministry. Other than Chapman were the Rev. Wilbur Rolan now in Southern Illinois; Rev. Arthur Wayne Braden, Jr. who served as Chaplain in World War II and now at the Midway, Ky. Church; Rev. Kendrick Anderson, pastor in Lexington, Ky.; Rev. Kenneth Coy who was ordained in the Fairbury Church and now pastor in Cincinnati, Ohio; Rev. John Patterson ordained at the Coleta, Ill., church; Rev. Luther Perrine, in Peoria and Rev. Richard Neal at Gayes, Ill. The Rev. Jesse E. Caudill, of Bloomington, is at present supply minister.

Long time members of the Christian Church who are still active in the church are Mrs. Fannie Besgrove Nieswander who was baptised Sept. 13, 1896 by the Rev. J. W. Porter; Mrs. Anna Besgrove Brown, Mrs. Edna Hotaling Barnes, Mrs. Hazel Johnson Merrill and Mrs. Leola Hotaling Ploense who came into the fellowship in the very early years of 1900. The Church recently received two lovely gifts from former workers. The first a nice pulpit Bible from Mrs. Dora Jones Orze of Clearwater, Florida, in memory of her parents and twin brother, Mr. and Mrs. M. N. Jones and Don. The second gift was new collection plates donated by Mrs. Bertha Scherr Bowker, of Manteno, Ill.

Within the past few years much improvement inside the building has been financed by the two Women's Sunday School classes and during the summer the men of the Church painted the outside of the church building.

Few in number tho' we be,
May God direct our way;
Open our eyes that we may see,
The Glory of Him each day.



This is to Certify

Logan Lough of Shrubbery in the Cove
and Barbara Stuff. of Fairb 1869,
Fairbury by Rev. Fairbury, Neb. 1 Dec

HOLY MATRIMONY

This is a reproduction of a wedding certificate issued December 14, 1869, to Logan Lough and Barbara Stuff. The ceremony was solemnized by Rev. W. C. Knapp, "in the presence of family and friends". Miss Stuff was a teacher in the Fairbury schools.

Early picture of Baptist Church was taken before streets and side-walks were paved.

CALENDAR

OF

St. John the Baptist Church,

FAIRBURY, ILLINOIS.

Cover of Baptist church calendar of events of 1901 looked like this.

First Lutheran Sermon Here July 19, 1908

The history of Trinity Lutheran Church of Fairbury, Illinois dates back to July 19, 1908. It was on that day that Rev. Christian Helmreich, then pastor of the Lutheran church of Crescent City, Illinois, made an entry in his diary which read: “Preached first time in Fairbury. The small group, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Saathoff, Mr. and Mrs. John Heins Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Sebo Mehrings and Herman Mehrings held services in the Free Methodist church every other Sunday afternoon at 2:00 o’clock. Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Meyer and baby, Agnes and Louis Weber united with the group shortly. Pastor Helmreich continued to serve the congregation until the spring of 1910. It was at that time the synod ruled that the Fairbury congregation must be served by the Chenoa pastor. At the same time the congregation rented the Baptist church.

Rev. Lorch served the parish until 1919, when he was replaced by Rev. Suhren. Shortly after the death of Rev. Suhren in 1919, Rev. Ramme was called. Due to the ill health of his wife it was necessary for Pastor Ramme to leave, and Rev. F. Bunge was called.

Under the pastorate of Rev. Bunge we have record of the first congregational meeting on Feb. 25, 1935 held in the Baptist church parlors. The congregation grew slowly, and services were conducted every other Sunday afternoon in German and English.

September 21, 1936 the congregation bought the Christian Science Society building located on the corner of Walnut and Fifth streets. The purchase price was $750. At that time we had thirty-six communicant members. Because our pastor served four congregations it was necessary for us to continue worship services every other Sunday, but it was now possible for us to have morning service.

A Sunday school was organized. Officers of the first Sunday school were: Supt. Mrs. John Eilers, Assistant Supt. Andrew Hlavas, Sec. Leora Gerdes, Treas. Mrs. Sam Haab. The teachers were Mrs. Haab, Mrs. Eilers, Miss Gerdes and Mrs. Meisenhelder. There were 19 pupils enrolled: Doris Meisenhelder, Mary Ellen Mehrings, Marvin Haase, Carl Bardley, Harlen Wessels, Dallas Wessels, Arnold Eilers, Francis Haase, Alfred Haase, Paul Eilers, Bernadine Nagel, Phyllis Haab, Carl Eilers, Margaret Mehrings, Marvin Nagel, Ogreta Wessels, Marie Eilers, Elizabeth Mehrings and Marjorie Canute.

The building was improved by removing the steel ceiling, putting in beams and celotex squares. The walls were papered and the furnace was removed to the basement. The kitchen chairs were exchanged for pews from the Lodemia church and we were given some pews by George Mowery. An altar, pulpit and lecturn were dedicated.

In 1940 Rev. Bunge was called to serve a church in Chicago. Rev. Carl H. Amelung was called to serve the Chenoa parish. It was at that time that the synod decided that the four churches should have two pastors, so Fairbury was served by the Chenoa pastor, and we were now able to have services every Sunday morning. Our congregation continued to grow. In 1945 a Hammond Electric Organ was

purchased, and in 1949 new pews were bought to replace our old ones. We were beginning to feel the need for more room.

Rev. Wittig was called to replace Pastor Amelung who accepted a call to Indianapolis, Indiana. Our church attendance continued to increase and our Sunday school was crowded to overflowing. After much thought and planning it seemed the time had come when we must provide more adequate facilities for our church. In 1956 plans were made to conduct a building fund canvass. Our present location was sold to the members of the Church of Christ. Ground was purchased from Mr. Kunezi, and on Easter Sunday, April 21, 1957 ground breaking services were held. Just fifty-six days later, cornerstone-laying ceremonies were held. August 18, our church was far enough along that we were able to conduct services in our church for the first time.

By the grace of God we have grown from a few families to more than one hundred communicant members. Trinity Lutheran is an active congregation with its various organizations. We have a Lutheran Brotherhood for the men, and the women have the Willing Workers. The Sunday school numbers more than fifty members, and we have a Junior Mission Band for the children. Each summer Daily Vacation Bible School is conducted. Confirmation classes are held by the pastor for both adults and children.

God's richest blessing has been with us in a wonderful way for these many years. May He continue to bless us that we may continue to worship Him and serve our community better.

St. Johns Catholic Church Founded In 1857

The Roman Catholic congregation of Fairbury was organized about 1857, and was visited semi annually by the Rev. B. Lonergan of Wilmington, until 1867, when the mission was attached to Pontiac, a resident priest having been appointed there. This priest, whose name was O'Neill was one of the oldest priests in America, and the first Irish priest to ever come west of the Alleghanies. It is believed that Fairbury was served by him a very short time. Following Fr. O'Neill was Rev. Thomas Quigley who served the Fairbury Community until 1868. Rev. Quigley recorded his first Baptism, a child with the name of LaBonte. An older parishioner recalls having been told the first child baptized, was that of a family traveling west in a covered wagon. This could possibly have been the La Bonte child. The first Fairbury resident baby recorded baptized was John Eddy, late husband of Mrs. Nellie Eddy.

The congregation, however, had not assumed any permanent organization until 1868 at which time, the Pastor who was Rev. John A. Fanning, decided to establish residence here because he thought Fairbury was such a growing community and Pontiac was not.

A frame church was built on the corner of Hickory and Jackson Sts. It was a 33X60 ft. structure and cost about $4,000. The rectory is still standing and is occupied by the Herbert Fehr family. The original membership consisted of some 30 families, and in 1878 had increased to 125 families, of whom the majority were section hands and miners. Very few farmers.

At this time Fr. Fanning also served Strawn parish. His means of travel being by horseback. A man by the name of John Carroll was caretaker of the horse.

The church edifice was dedicated to St. John the Baptist on the 24th of June, the year not known.

The small organ which was used in this church is still in existance. The choir consisted of Winefred Keeley, Mrs. Anna (Salmon) McAllister, and Mrs. John Eddy.

Following Rev. Fanning, as pastors, were Rev. Patrick Lyons, Aug. 1882-1884, Rev. Peter Owens, Feb. 1884-Jan. 1892, Rev. J. H. Quinlan, Feb. 1892 - May 1894, Rev. Patrick Dillon, July 1894 - July 1900, and Rev. James Francis, July 1900 - Dec. 1910. It was during Rev. Francis' service, it was decided to build a new church. The cornerstone was laid in 1902 and it was dedicated on Nov. 9, 1902. The lots for this church were purchased from Miss Jeanette Moore at the price of $1900. In 1901 there were 78 contributors and in 1910 there were approx. 90 contributors.

Following Fr. Francis was the Rev. Peter Shudy. He served the parish from 1910 to 1915. On Jan. 28, 1913, the first Nuptial High Mass was said in this church, for Bessie Mowery and Mattie L. Nolan by Rev. Shudy.

Rev. S. E. Aut served from June 1915 to July 1927. Rev. V. J. Griffin from July 1927 - June 1933. Rev. George Schramm from June 1933 to June 1937 and Rev. S. F. Kubiak from June 1937 to June 1955. Fr. Kubiak was the only pastor, to date, who passed away while serving in Fairbury. It is a great honor, that he chose our parish cemetery for his resting place. Rev. Wm. Boucher was appointed to serve here in June 1955. Only one former Pastor, Fr. Schramm, is still living.

Our oldest living parishioner is Mrs. Nellie Eddy who will be 84 in Sept. She was baptized, received first Holy Communion, was confirmed, and was married in the same parish, which is very unusual.

The oldest known marker in St. Johns cemetery was dated in 1873. Although there have been burials there before that date, there are no records of them.

The information for this article was taken from the church records and also from the History of Livingston County.

(Dedication and History taken from issue of November 14, 1902)

Dedication of St. John's Church.

With solemn rites and impressive ceremonies St. John's new Catholic church in this city was dedicated Sunday. The day was a beautiful one and hundreds of people were in attendance. Every pew in the

church was filled and the aisles were crowded with people standing and even then a large number of people were unable to gain admission.

Bishop Spaulding of Peoria was to have dedicated the church but was unable to be present owing to the fact that he was appointed a member of the arbitration committee by President Roosevelt to settle the mine difficulties.

Right Rev. Bishop J. J. O'Riley of Peoria came in his stead and dedicated the church being assisted in the services by the priest in charge, Father Francis, and celebrant. M. Weldon, Bloomington; Deacon, J. J. Burk, Bloomington; Chaplains to the bishop, P. Lyons, Pontiac; M. Ryan, Piper City; Sub deacon, J. Quinn, Chatsworth; Master of Ceremonies, M. J. O'Callaghan, Chenoa. The church was beautifully decorated with potted plants and cut flowers. The choir assisted by Laughran's orchestra sang very beautifully "Wilgrand's Festival Mass." Solos were sung by Miss Elizabeth Laughran, Peter Somers of Bloomington and Ignatius Heckman.

Following the dedication Auxiliary Bishop O'Riley delivered the dedicatory address taking for his subject "The Moral Effects of Christianity." He spoke for upwards of an hour and held the interest of the large audience throughout. He spoke of the history of the Catholic church in the past and of the good which had been accomplished by the church and the good it was doing at present. He told of the magnificent edifice which stood as monuments to Christ far grander and lasting than all monuments erected to man. He paid a glowing tribute to the zealous and faithful work of Rev. Father Francis thru whose untiring efforts the church was accomplished and congratulated the people for the noble and hearty response given to the efforts of their priest.

In the evening Rev. J. J. Burk spoke on "The Triumphs of Religion" to an audience fully as large as the previous one. He delivered a very interesting sermon which was enjoyed by all present. Ignatius Heckman sang a solo in a very fine voice.

The new church is a beautiful one both interior and exterior. The building is situated on the corner of Ash and fourth streets facing south. It is 40X50, brick with slate roof and has a tower on the southeast corner. The interior is finished in dark green solid, touched here and there with fresco. The cost of the church was $14,000.

Memorial windows in memory of the following departed adorn the new edifice; Casper Egges, by Theodore and Alvin Egges, also Casper Egges, by Mary Elizabeth and Teresia Egges; in the memory of the departed members of the Edward Harrington's family, by the living; John F. O'Brien by his children, James and Mary Ann. Anthony Glinnen, by Dennis Glinnen; Mrs. James Harrington by James Harrington and family; Mrs. Thomas Winslow, by living members of deceased family; John McGreal and family; Mr. and Mrs. William Moran; Allen and Helen Wernsman in memory of Robert Barry.

History of Catholic Church

The Roman Catholic congregation was organized about 1857 and was visited from that time semi-annually by Rev. B. Lonergan, of Wilmington, until 1867, when the mission was attached to Pontiac, a resident priest having been appointed there. The priest, whose name was O'Neil, was one of the oldest priests in America, the first Irish priest who ever came west of the Alleghenies, and was succeeded by Rev. Thomas Quigley. The congregation, however, had not assumed any permanent organization until 1868, when, under the leadership of Rev. John A. Fanning a frame church was built, 33 by 60 feet, to which important additions were made, at a total cost of about 4,000.

The original membership consisted of some thirty families, but has increased fourfold and over. The church edifice was dedicated on June 24, to St. John the Baptist, by Rev. G. Gonaut, of Chebanse, assisted by the pastor and other clergyman. The Sunday school of this church was organized cotemporaneously with the congregation. Its first superintendent was Owen McKay, who later went to Cheyenne, Wyo.

Rev. J. J. Francis took charge of the work in this parish July 15, 1900. He has labored with an earnestness and zeal which brings results. His earnestness was communicated to the members of the church and one of the first outward results is the fine new church. He has worked hard to accomplish this result and Sunday had the pleasure of seeing his ambitions realized. Father Francis is beloved by the members of his church and has many friends among the people of this city and vicinity. Of the original members of the church the following are still living in this parish: Dennis Glinnen, Chris Glinnen, Mathew Glinnen, Thomas Winslow, James Harrington, Edward Harrington, Jerimiah Sullivan, Patrick Sullivan, Mrs. Haverty, William Moran, Mrs. Ann Moran, Mrs. B. Barry, Patrick Curren, P. F. Sommers, John Daily, Mrs. Lawrence Keeley, John McGreal and Stephen Eddy.

Much disappointment was felt on account of Bishop Spaulding being unable to be present, and Father Francis is going to try to arrange for him to give a lecture in the near future.

Baptists Hold First Meeting In 1858

By Rev. J. Coker, October 11th issue, 1908.

The first distinctively Baptist meeting ever held here, of which we have any record, was held September 5, 1858, in the school house, situated where Mr. Patton John's residence now stands, by the few Baptists who had come to make for themselves a home upon these prairies. After a sermon by Elder Branch, the question of forming a Baptist church was discussed and it was unanimously decided to meet on the first Saturday in October to organize such members as may desire into a regular Baptist church. Elder Branch was instructed to convene a council of neighboring Baptist churches at said date.

The council met but few were present, and a part of those who were invited to sit in council had not arrived, so they adjourned until the following morning, October 3, 1858. On Sabbath morning there were only three members of the council present, these from Smith's Grove church. Voted to proceed to organization. The following persons presented their letters and were formed into "The First Baptist Church of Fairbury, Illinois": Caleb L. Patton, Orphia Patton, Jesse Hanna, Richard Hanna and Joanna Hanna. Sermon by Elder Branch, after which the New Hampshire confession of faith was adopted, covenant read and assented to. Elder Branch continued to preach for the young church once in two weeks.

The first item recorded after the organization was at a meeting held March 5, 1859, when Brother A. W. and Sister M. A. Higbee are received by letter, Brother C. L. Patton was chosen deacon and Richard Hanna, Clerk. The Divine blessing was granted and the little company were encouraged by additions of useful members. Saturday, March 12, 1859, Jacob and Pleasant Compston were received as candidates for baptism and buried with Christ in baptism the following day. These were the first thus received into the church, and still remain earnest followers of Jesus and devoted members of the church. Sister Orpha Patton, mother of Mrs. Compston, was the only remaining constituent member; the others had all entered into the rest that remaineth for the people of God. The meetings were held there at that time for about a year in the same school house.

April 3, 1859, Rev. Courtlen Skinner, an uncle of Sister McKee, commenced preaching for them, and on that date the first communion service was held. He labored with the church only a short period, living alternately with C. L. Patton and Hugh McKee, a week each.

On April 30, 1860, Brother McKee related his christian experience and was accepted for baptism. He was followed by Ephriam Hanna, May 14th, and both were baptised the same day. Sister Jemima McKee soon joined her husband in church fellowship, for in two weeks, less one day, she was also received for baptism, and on the following Sabbath she with Brother Thomas Edwards received christian baptism.

June 26, 1860, Brother Decatur Veatch, of Randolph's Grove church, not having a letter, was accepted on his experience. The next month one more addition, George B. Conn united by letter.

Elder Freeman supplied the church for about three months and was succeeded by Elder Benton, who preached only a few Sabbaths. At this time the church voted to co-operate with neighboring Baptist churches to join an association. Delegates met at Metamora, September 21, 1859, and "The Illinois River Baptist Association East" was organized. At a meeting held August 6, a committee was appointed to secure lots for the erection of a house of worship.

On April 7, 1860, a call was given to Rev. B. F. Scriven to become pastor. The call was accepted and Rev. Scriven became the first pastor the church had, though giving only a part of his time to the work in Fairbury. At the same meeting Wm. Edwards was received to membership on the relation of his Christian experience. The progress which up to that time was slow, became more marked and rapid. The first anniversary of the newly formed association met at Panola, at which they find reported from Fairbury: increase by baptism 6, by letter 6, by experience 2, total membership 19. The following year the increase was by baptism 15, by letter 4, total membership 38. Everything was now in a very unsettled state, owing to the war of the rebellion, and the little band report much suffering occasioned

by it. Four of their number had gone to the front, names not given, and others express their willingness to go. Services were held in a hall during these years and up to 1865 or 66 it was situated somewhere near where Mr. Werling's butcher shop now stands. Notwithstanding these difficulties the church grew in numbers and power all through Rev. Scriven's pastorate of some three years. He had the privilege of baptising 27, of receiving by letter 17, by experience 3, total 47, so that in 1863 it was strong enough to entertain the association. Meetings were held in a school house at the "grove" with several conversions. Assisted in the building of what is known as "The Union Meeting House," and still appoints one of its trustees.

In 1864 Rev. W. C. F. Hempstead was called to the pastorate for one year. A church edifice was now commenced. Four lots were donated for this purpose by Brother Caleb L. Patton, 2 of them were afterwards sold to help pay for the erection of the building. A thousand dollars were loaned from the Baptist Church Edifice Fund. It was purposed to construct a frame building, and timber was given and laid upon the site, but it was learned that it would be less expensive to build with brick, so the lumber was sold and a brick structure erected. But, as it is too often the case, the concern and anxiety of building the material structure mitigated against the spiritual and only two baptisms were reported. The total membership is now 42. And for the first time a Sunday School is mentioned with 50 scholars.

The building of the house of worship was beset with many difficulties, money scarce, material and wages high. When the walls were put up they stood uncovered for some six months or more, while more than a year passed away before its completion. Pastorless, disheartened, the church sought divine help and guidance. At length an urgent request was sent to Rev. James Carnes to come and undertake the oversight. He visited the church and after carefully looking the field over decided to accept the task and entered upon his labors June 25, 1865. With his coming new vigor was put into every department of church work and soon prosperity began to smile upon their endeavors. The house of worship was completed in 1866 and dedicated to the service of God, while soon the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord, and echoed with the songs of converted souls. The records are lost which cover this period so that the particulars regarding those services cannot be given. Brother Carnes was a man of great spiritual power and his ministry was blessed with what may be termed a continuous revival. The church reached its greatest strength during his pastorate, numbering 260 members or more, in 1868 as many as 56 were baptised into the fellowship of the church, and in 1869, 54 more. Total baptisms during a pastorate of a little less than five years was 189.

At a meeting held July, 1869, a resolution was unanimously adopted setting forth the church's attitude towards what was deemed "sinful amusements," condemning the practice of a few members of this church attending circuses and other places for sinful pleasure, with a request that they attend no more. During 1870 a mission was established at Forrest with a good degree of success; others had previously been at Potosi and Weston, dates not stated. In March of that year Weston became an auxiliary organization to Fairbury and in the following year an independent church, 41 members taking letters from the mother church.

Rev. J. Jones was the next pastor. Stayed one year. One addition by baptism. Rev. A. Gross then

supplied the pulpit for four months. Rev. J. C. Reed was the next pastor. Called September 6, 1873, and on Nov. 13 was ordained, Rev. C. D. Merit preaching the ordination sermon.

Rev. I. S. Manan followed, giving two-thirds of his time. In the spring of 1875 five weeks of special meetings were held and are cherished as among the most precious seasons ever enjoyed by the church. The interest at the close was so great that it was voted to continue them, but sickness compelled the pastor to discontinue them. Twelve happy converts were a part of the result, while several were restored to their first love and zeal in the Savior's cause. Seventeen were baptised during the year.

He was succeeded by Rev. E. R. Pierce, who remained from April, 1875, to April, 1876.

After him came Rev. C. D. Merit, whose pastorate extended over a period of six years. This is the longest pastorate in the history of the church. No special meetings were held during these years, yet 16 followed their Lord in baptism, 32 were admitted by letter and six by experience.

Rev. A. Robbins was pastor January, 1884, to 1885. No particulars recorded.

The church was then supplied with students from Morgan Park Theological Seminary. Brother Gill would have become pastor but failing health prevented. Rev. S. A. Perrine was with them a few months and five were baptised.

Rev. J. J. Crosby, then a student, was asked to supply the pulpit indefinitely. After supplying from Nov. 1885, to March, 1886, was called to the pastorate for one year. A council was convened and he was ordained to the gospel ministry June 29, 1886, Rev. J. W. Tanner, of Pontiac, preaching the ordination sermon. During his pastorate a series of meetings were held at the school house near Brother T. C. Spencer's home with encouraging results, 11 joining the church by baptism, making 15 during the year. By that time the old meeting house was rendered unsafe by the decaying of its foundations, and the question of a new building or an entire reconstruction of the old was forced upon the church. It was after mature deliberation decided to pull down the old and rebuild on the same site. It seemed a great undertaking when the financial strength was gauged, and to Brother Crosby is in no small measure due the credit for so bold an enterprise. A committee consisting of Brothers C. D. Merit, H. McKee, Thomas Weeks, J. W. Beers, and T. O. Cook, was appointed June 2, 1888, to carry out the decision arrived at. The present neat and comfortable house, costing $5,479.19, is the result. It was completed and opened for divine worship March 17, 1889. There was lacking $147.45 to meet the indebtedness at the opening service, when subscriptions were taken to the amount of $300.13, and the house was dedicated free from all incumberance with money in the treasury. Dr. A. A. Kendrick, of Shurtliffe college, preached the dedicatory sermon from 1 Cor. 3:23, "And ye are Christ's." The services were very impressive and deeply interesting.

It is only becoming that mention should be made and due credit accorded to the noble, self-denying work of the Ladies Home Mission circle. There is no church work done but what the ladies, if not first in it, give it their warmest sympathy and sanctified zeal; these by their earnest, consecrated toil, earned

the handsome sum of $610 and gave it towards the furnishing of the church.

Rev. J. W. Neyman, another student of Morgan Park, supplied from April to September of 1889. He baptised 4.

The present pastorate commenced on the last Sabbath of February, 1890. During the few months it has been our privilege to labor among you, although sickness has greatly interfered with our work, we have not been without tokens of the Master's smile. A successful young people's society has been organized, 4 have been buried with Christ in baptism, 1 received by experience and 3 by letter.

The deacons, all of whom have served the church with much fidelity and to whom in large measure may be attributed the success of the Lord's work, some of them have gone to their reward, others occupy places in Christ's Kingdom elsewhere, and a few remain with us still. Their names, as far as I can find them, are Caleb L. Patton, Wm. Carpenter, Tilton Howard, Harley Ingersol, Adolphus Stuckey, D. B. Shepherd, Hugh McKee, T. C. Spencer and Thomas Weeks.

It would be well to remember also the work of the church clerks. The office of clerk requires much care and painstaking, and the incumbent does his work gratuitously, a service of love to the church, and without hope of public honor. Their names, as far as I can find them, are Richard Hanna, R. L. Patton, Tilton Howard, D. B. Shepherd, C. C. McConnell, T. O. Cook, Mrs. L. J. Sterling, and T. C. Spencer, the present clerk.

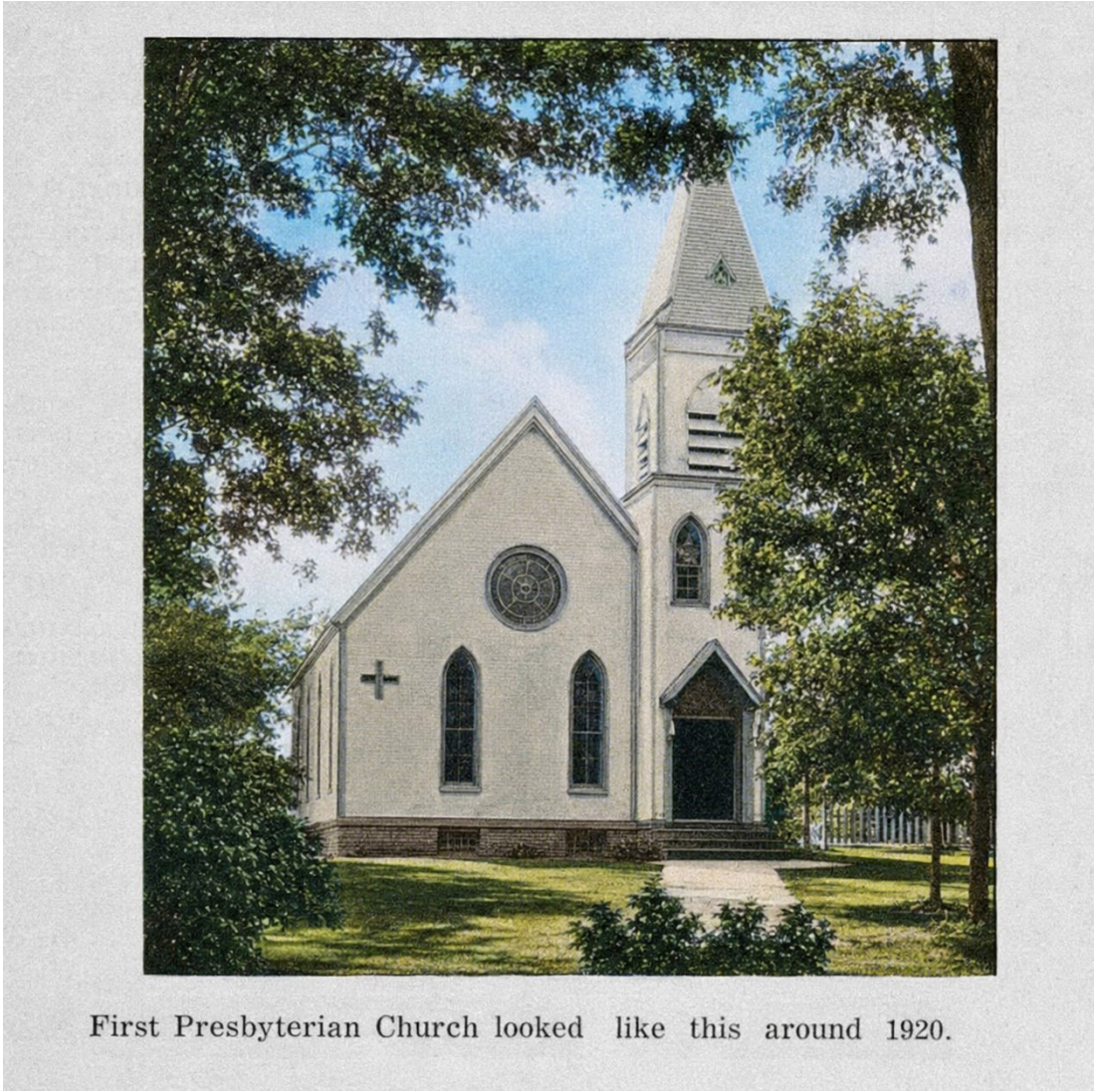
The church has granted license to preach the gospel to Brothers James F. Wells, now pastor at Hiawatha, Kan., P. H. Faulk, until recently pastor at Benson, Ill., but now pursuing a course of study at Morgan Park Seminary, Wm. Carpenter, and R. L. W. Jamison. It has ordained to the ministry Brothers N. L. Rigby, J. R. Reed and J. J. Crosby.

A Sunday school has been connected with the church during most of its history. It has been a constant feeder of the church, a large number who have united with the church, there received preparation for the work of grace under the tuition of some Sunday school teacher. Our beloved brother, J. W. Beers, has been its superintendent for 23 consecutive years and will tell us more about it later on in these services.

The written history of the church must come to a close. There is an unwritten history resplendent with sacrifice and toil and courage for God, with prayer and hope. It is God's history, and in it all the service of the people, one and all, which it is impossible to describe or even mention in a history like this, is inscribed; and they who have labored for Christ with this church, shall some day have mention made of them and receive their reward.

We are now 32 years old, we ought to be in our full strength of vigorous christian manhood, and ready to make for God and His Christ a grander history in the years to come. The past is behind us, the

present is ours, the future may be given to us. Let us so improve the present that the future may have a brighter record than the past.



First Presbyterian Church looked like this around 1920.

Presbyterian History Began Here In 1858

History of Presbyterian church—
(Taken from 50th Anniversary,
April 4, 1920)

(Mrs. A. H. Remington)

The First Presbyterian Church of Fairbury, Illinois, was the result of the union of Old and New School Presbyterian Churches which took place in 1870. The New School church was organized in 1858, Rev.

I. T. Whittemore being the first Pastor. The congregation worshiped in a Hall over a store until 1862, when they built a church on the ground where the present edifice stands.

The Church prospered and its membership and usefulness increased until 1867, when some of the members who had been "Old School" decided to organize a church and worship by themselves. Under the leadership of Rev. John Dale as Pastor, they built a small church where the Amish Church now stands. In 1870, when the Old and New School Presbyterians united throughout the world, the two Fairbury Churches came together. They worshiped for a short time in the old school church with Rev. M. B. Gregg, the New School Pastor in charge. The congregation increasing, they removed to the New School building. The Sabbath School had been in existence since 1858, and the Ladies Auxiliary Society organized in the early Sixties was very active and helpful.

Mr. Gregg's pastorate ended in March, 1871, and in October of the same year Rev. J. N. Hutchinson accepted a call from the church and remained with it until December, 1874. The Lord blessed the work and the people felt the need of a new and larger Church Building. The Auxiliary Society had $300 in its treasury which the ladies hoped to use for that purpose but it was finally decided to defer building for a time.

After Mr. Hutchinson left, the pulpit was occupied by Rev. Mr. Hutchins for a short time. He with his mother and sister occupying the Parsonage, the house now owned by Mr. Davenport.

With the advent of Rev. John Allison in June 1881, the Church became encouraged on the subject of building. Being an eloquent speaker and having traveled extensively, Mr. Allison gave a course of Lectures for the building fund and a subscription paper was soon started for a new church edifice. The organization still owned the Old School church building and that and the New School parsonage were sold and the proceeds applied toward the new church, which was dedicated free from all indebtedness in 1882.

Rev. Robert Watt succeeded Mr. Allison. He was young and enthusiastic and did a good work here.

Rev. D. L. Temple came in 1886. He divided his time the first year between Fairbury and Chenoa, preaching at each place once on the Sabbath. Later he gave his whole time to the Fairbury Church. The membership increase was considerable during Mr. Temple's ministration which ended in April 1890.

Rev. R. A. Vanderlas was Mr. Temple's successor, being with the church from April, 1891, to August, 1892.

Rev. S. F. Sharpless became Pastor of the Church in November 1892. The following year the present Manse was built, the church grounds being large enough to accommodate a second building.

Mr. Sharpless left in August, 1895, and when the present Pastor, Rev. Charles S. Davies, came in May, 1896, the church had become quite weak from various causes primarily, because several very helpful

families had removed to other towns and some members had died. While frequently there was no preaching on the Sabbath, the midweek service and the Sabbath School were carried on without intermission and the Lord's good promises never failed.

Under the new Pastor's direction everything began to improve. The Woman's Missionary Society was a very feeble organization at that time. As it grew stronger the Pastor advised that it become the "Church Missionary Society" thereby including men as well as women. This has proven to be an excellent idea and the society has become strong and helpful. The Church building was enlarged in 1901, by the addition of a Sunday School room which was greatly needed. The Basement too has been improved at different times and conveniences added. It now furnishes rooms for the Primary classes of the Sabbath School, and is also well equipped for the use of the Auxiliary Society in holding meetings, serving suppers, etc., which they believe promote Christian fellowship among the members of the Church and congregation.

A pipe organ was later added to the Church equipment, which has been of almost inestimable value during the years that have followed through aid to a ministry of melody and song.

The Church has received bequests of money from the Estates of former members which have greatly assisted in its works of benevolence. Only the interest is used, the principal being invested. The John and Helen Cockram Fund amounts to $16,000. A memorial tablet with the following inscription is placed in the Church: "In Memoriam" "1836 John Cockram 1905" "1832 Helen Cockram 1911"

"When called to their reward they bequeathed to the Presbyterian Church in Fairbury, the John and Helen Cockram Fund, directing that the income be used for the work of Christ's Kingdom on Earth. The Trustees and congregation have accepted the trust and declare it their purpose to expend such amount as seems fit to encourage a more intimate knowledge of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the community. To spend the remainder with other contributions in maintaining an assistant Pastor on the foreign field. Hebrews 6-1"

The Mary A. George Fund of $1,000 was given by a former earnest member of the church, for the general uses of the Church. The Lester King Fund is a like amount of $1,000. As a soldier he gave his life on the battlefield of France and his parents presented the gift as a memorial to him, the income to be used to assist the work of the young people of the congregation.

In 1912 the Church assumed the support of Rev. A. V. Gray in Nanking, China, and through his efforts and those of his wife our people have sought to fulfill the admonition to carry the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the world.

This congregation always responded generously to all appeals for extension of the church work. Many Christian workers both at home and abroad owe their education and training to funds contributed by us. Scholarships are maintained for both young men and young women among the Freedmen. For many years the Church sustained a flourishing Christian Endeavor, both Senior and Junior Societies. The

former has been merged into a Young People's Federation which is active in all good works. Steady Streams, the Children's Society, educates the little ones along missionary lines.

It would be impossible to emphasize too greatly the strength afforded the Church by the Ladies Aid Society and the Sabbath School. Their faithful co-operation has never failed. There are a number of organized classes in the Sabbath School whose efforts have resulted in large contributions to missions and to charitable work at home.

The membership in 1870 was 88. It is now 350. Those familiar with the history of this Church know that there have been times of perplexity, and almost anxiety, but never times of doubt or discouragement. They believe that discouragement in the Lord's work is inexcusable. Sometimes an important place has been left vacant by the removal of a faithful worker, sometimes a financial problem has arisen but some one has always come forward to fill that place and the way was opened to meet financial needs. The Church has found that "The Lord is Mindful of His People."

Since the history of the first fifty years of the First Presbyterian Church has been written the following item has been brought to light. The inscription on the bell in the church is as follows:

First Presbyterian Church
October 1, 1883
Rev. Robert Watt, pastor
Trustees, W. H. Taylor, William Blain, John Decker

Glory to God in the Highest

Although the new church was dedicated free from all indebtedness in 1882 the bell was probably bought and installed as the inscription states on October 1, 1883.

The William Blain whose name appears on the bell was the grandfather of Wm. Fugate of our city.

Rev. Charles S. Davies came to our church in May 1896. May 22, 1932 was the 50th anniversary of dedication of the edifice of the church and also the 36th pastorate anniversary of Rev. Davies. He closed his pastorate August, 1941, after 45 years of splendid and unfailing service not only to his church but in the community. (This is the longest pastorate in the history of Bloomington Presbytery) His fine principles and Christian example will ever be a guide to those who were fortunate enough to have had him as their pastor. After leaving here he made his residence in Vineland, New Jersey, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and in the summer of 1948 returned to Fairbury to make his home. Dr. Davies passed away Jan. 21, 1956.

On October 6, 1941 at 7:30 p. m. the Rev. Willard Heimbeck was installed as the new pastor. During Rev. Heimbeck's pastorate he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Montgomery from Rock Island, Ill.

On September 6, 1942 the Presbyterian church had a Homecoming; every member whose name appeared on the records and address was available was invited. A beautiful morning service followed by a splendid dinner which was followed by a short service honoring our service men and closing with Holy Communion brought the memorable day to a close.

Rev. Heimbeck made many friends while here. His pastorate ended in May 1945. From here he went to a Napoleon, Ohio, church.

Rev. William Pritchard, Jr. was installed on September 23, 1945, as the pastor of the Presbyterian church. Rev. and Mrs. Pritchard and son came to the church from Sheldon, Illinois. While here William III and Mark came to bless their home.

While Rev. Pritchard was here, the church was again improved by the addition of several church school rooms to the northeast section of the main building. This met an important need because of the growing membership.

The Women's Auxiliary and Missionary society were formed into the Presbyterian Women's organization with five circles.

The Presbyterian Women's organization is doing a splendid work with far-reaching effect.

During Rev. Pritchard's ministry the church sponsored a family from Austria, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gaug and Sylvia and Gabor. They came in February 1951, and went to Oshkosh, Wis. July 15, 1956.

The church was renewed again in a material way in the summer of 1951. The organ was changed and the chancel was rearranged and new accessories installed. With the new equipment a more formal arrangement was established and on Sunday December 2, 1951, a very impressive dedication service was observed.

The Charles Robinson Memorial Chancel—Presented by Mrs. Lucy Carmon.

The Pulpit—Presented by Mr. and Mrs. Karl Keck and Mrs. Estella K. Platt in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Keck.

The Bible—Presented by the Choir and Friends in memory of Mrs. Aline Remington Heckman.

The Baptismal Font—presented by Charles H. Purdum and Glenn Gibb Families in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Purdum.

The Cross, Candlesticks and vases—presented by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Decker in memory of Pfc. Robert W. Decker.

The Offering Plates—presented by Mrs. Kate Huntoon in memory of Hugh Moss Sutton.

The Communion Table—presented by Ruth B. Taylor in memory of Mrs. Chloe B. Bartlett.

The Reredos—presented by Mrs. Marie R. Seifert in memory of Arthur Seifert.

The Chancel Lights—presented by John and Charles Huette, Mrs. Helen Bates, Stanley Dennewitz in memory of Mrs. Addie Huette.

The congregation of the church were deeply appreciative of the work of the board of trustees who so ably planned the new chancel.

The new furnishings were beautiful and helped put dignity in the service, although one realizes the greatest beauty is the desire to ever be a witness for Our Heavenly Father and the teachings of our Saviour.

Rev. Pritchard's pastorate ended in February 1952 when he went to The First Presbyterian church of Indianapolis, Indiana, as the Associate Pastor.

On June 1, 1952, Rev. John Foss was installed and he and Mrs. Foss were here until February 1957.

While here little daughter Karen came to brighten their home.

Rev. Foss was a man of great sincerity and made many friends while here and the church prospered. He was very civic minded and helped in many projects. The Go-See-Trip was of great interest to the young people. This project was of such interest that the Presbytery, seeing the result, sponsored a trip for the Presbytery. He was especially interested in youth activities. While here he was instrumental in developing the Hummel Woods Camp site on Lake Bloomington which Mrs. Hummel donated to the Bloomington Presbytery of Illinois. The Presbyterian laymen's breakfasts during Holy Week to which men of other churches as probably were also invited became so popular that a prayer group of interested laymen was organized which meets weekly.

In 1957 the church sponsored a family from Germany Mr. and Mrs. Gebhardt Heppner and daughter. Mr. Heppner is employed as a mason. They have united with the church and have taken their place in the community.

Rev. and Mrs. Foss and Karen left Fairbury in February, 1957, to make their home in St. Louis Park, Minnesota to organize and develop a new church.

On May 11, 1957 Rev. and Mrs. Richard L. Harrison came to Fairbury, Illinois. Rev. Harrison was installed as minister of the church on May 26, 1957.

On June 18, 1957 their son Mark came to bring happiness to their home. Rev. Harrison has made many friends in the short time he has been here and is doing his work in an able manner.

The First Presbyterian Church of Fairbury has continued through the years to show its interest in the world-wide work of the church, by supporting missionaries and fraternal workers at home and abroad.

This active service began with the support of Rev. A. V. Gray in Nanking, China in 1912. Rev. Gray was an instructor in the Nanking University. He made itinerating trips through the country and contracted an oriental disease which forced his retirement. When he and his wife returned to the States, they were met in Seattle by Dr. and Mrs. Otis who had been notified by Dr. Davies of their arrival. Dr. and Mrs. Otis cared for them until the Board arranged for them to go East where Rev. Gray was treated and cured but was very frail. He was pastor of a small church in Iowa and there passed away.

After the death of Rev. Gray, Dr. L. K. Anderson became our representative in 1926, as an evangelistic missionary in Cameroun, West Africa. In 1939 Dr. Anderson was made secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions for Africa and Latin America. He was appointed Field Representative for Africa in 1950, with headquarters in Yaounde. It is thrilling to know that the Presbyterian church has advanced in the Cameroun, until it has its own General Assembly and in 1957 became a completely indigenous church.

Following Dr. Anderson in 193^ the church congregation began the support of Rev. S. Irvine Graham in Ponte Nova, Brazil, where he and his wife were teachers in the Normal school. Mr. Graham also supervised the school farm. Later, the Grahams were transferred to Jatai, in the state of Goiaz, Brazil. Soon after the transfer Mr. Graham lost his life in an airplane accident in Goiaz. His wife, Ruth Graham is at present supervisor of teachers in the Samuel Graham Institute, so named in honor of her husband.

In 1953 the church assumed the partial support of Rev. Aulden D. Coble in Ibaque, Colombia, S. A. Ibaque has for some time been the most open field for the gospel in the country, but recently the centers have been closed to Protestants. At present Rev. and Mrs. Coble are on loan to the West central area of the Board of Foreign Missions in the U. S. A. Rev. Coble is West Central area secretary with his office in Kansas City.

Dr. Donald P. Davis became the church's representative as a fraternal worker in India, December 11, 1956. He spent some time at Landour, in the foothills of the Himalayas, studying the language and preparing for active service meanwhile working in the Landour hospital. He is to be located at the Memorial Hospital in Fatehgarh, India.

During the ministry of Rev. John Foss, the church undertook the partial support of their first missionary under the Board of National Missions. Rev. Lowell M. Campbell was a class-mate of Rev. John Foss and Rev. Richard Harrison. He was the missionary pastor at the Eskimo village of Gambell, St. Lawrence Is., Alaska. He was transferred to the church in Anchorage which had become self-

supporting in 1956.

In 1957, the Rev. Arthur E. French III began service as pastor of the Church in Gambell, St. Lawrence Is. He also serves as moderator of the Savoonga church, sixty-five dog-team miles away. He is the present representative of the Fairbury Presbyterian Church under the Board of National Missions.

The information and inspiration brought to the church by these ambassadors of Christ at home and abroad, have broadened the vision and increased the interest of the church congregation in missions. They have also fulfilled a triple need; the need of the home church to obey the command of Christ to go into all the world and preach the gospel, the need of the world to know the love of God through Christ and the need of the Heavenly Father to be glorified in the earth.

BEQUESTS AND GIFTS

In all endeavors, spiritual or otherwise, the church needs financial assistance and help in various ways. These combined bring the church closer to the objective.

Through the years bequests and gifts have stimulated the work and have made it possible to carry on. The following have been greatly appreciated: A bequest from Catherine Nimmo estate of $2,000; from Mr. Kayton Readle, $100; Mr. and Mrs. Will Nimmo, chimes; Mrs. Mary Nimmo estate, $5,000; and Mrs. Ida Shanks estate, $10,000; Mrs. Mary Harvey, Bible bookmarks and pulpit scarves, Mrs. Anna Householder, Pulpit and lectern lights. And so their interest in the church and their love for His house are manifested although they have entered into His Kingdom.

New Hymnals were placed in the church in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Keck by Dr. C. S. Davies, Perry J. Keck, Estella K. Platt, and Karl V. Keck in 1938. A desk lamp given in memory of Dr. W. A. Roth was presented by Mrs. Roth and William Roth.

When hymnals were needed again in December, 1955, Mr. and Mrs. Karl V. Keck presented the church with the new hymnals.

A picture with a religious theme was presented to the Sabbath school in memory of Catherine Phelps by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Phelps.

These gestures of interest and helpfulness are appreciated by the members and congregation.

Most inspiring sermons accompanied by beautiful music excellently rendered have made the church an inviting house in which to worship.

There have been many organized groups within the church that have given great strength in many ways to sustain the spiritual life of the church.

The continuous and conscientious endeavor of faithful workers in various duties through the years cannot be over-emphasized.

The untiring and sincere efforts in these various directions are prompted by a love for “Him Who changeth not”. Although changes have occurred, faithful ones have come forward. It is strong individuals who make strong groups and able leaders and faithful followers have made the church one of strength.

The church is one of earnest Christian desires and accomplishments and much is due to the faith and spirit of its members combined with a strong leadership. The membership has grown from 350 in 1920 to 413 in 1957. Not only has membership increased but also a fine Christian fellowship has developed.

Dependent upon the Lord for strength and guidance, the First Presbyterian church looks forward to the next 100 years expectantly.

First class to graduate from the present high school building was this class of 1915. Left to right they are, back row, John Frye, deceased; Charles Heins, deceased; Chloe Fugate, Joseph Chapman, deceased; Mildred Hotaling, Wilbur Best, Raymond Deputy, deceased; Woodford Churchhill.

Front row: Catherine Loughran, Roy Householder, Fossie Ramsey, Claribel Bartram, LaVeta Goslin, Louiel Bartlett, deceased; Audrey Haner, Orlo Woods, Mabel Garber, and Loraine Wilson.

According to old program, First Annual Commencement Exercises of the Fairbury Township high school were held at the Central Opera House May 27, 1915.

This picture shows third grade class in north side school about 1885 or 1890.

The Garden Department of the Fairbury Woman's club is shown as members gathered in the garden of Mrs. W. C. Schmidt one day in the early 1930's on the occasion of an iris tea.

Left to right are Mrs. A. G. Phelps, Miss Grace Sharp, Mrs. E. D. Powell, Mrs. C. A. Purdum, Mrs. E. A. Agard, unidentified, Mrs. L. B. Dominy, Mrs. Marshall Gordon, Mrs. E. T. Lange, Mrs. W. C. Schmidt, Mrs. Edytha Decker, Mrs. Olive James, Mrs. M. A. Anderson, Mrs. G. Y. McDowell Mrs. Herbert Powell, Mrs. W. R. Bane, Mrs. C. W. Keck.

Miss Teresa Egges, Miss Flora Morris, Mrs. Flora Householder, Miss Olive McKee, Miss Stacia Hagen, Mrs. J. A. Franger, Mrs. Con Sullivan, Mrs. Elizabeth Ward, Mrs. W. A. Goembel, Mrs. E. G. Stevens, and Miss Blanche Dawson. Fultz photo.

Members of the Fairbury chapter of the Grand Army of the Republic met one day about 1890 on the L. F. Pratt farm south of town, and had this picture taken.

All of the men were not identified, but included are Isaac Walton, third from left standing; next to him George Goshorn and next to him Perry Hamilton. Next in line come Tip Cox and John Wantland.

Thomas Day is the man holding his coat in the bottom row, and the man with the cane is "Blind" Robinson. J. H. Carter is seventh from the right in the back row, and directly in front of him in the first row is George Day.

Students at the north side high school in 1897 were, left to right, lower row: Fred Perlee, Clarence Dexter, Walter Phelps, Will Laubenheimer, Winfred Shover, Allen Higbee, Fred Bethard, Leroy Kirby, Ro Bartlett, Bert ter Claudon, Tom Stalmon, Miss Margaret Carter, teacher; Peloe Second row: Prof. C. E. DeButts, Bertha Cook, Edna Sterling, Gertrude Rockwood, Edith Mitten, Gertrude O'Malley, Anna Weber, Lottie Johnson, Vina Johnson, Mary Kelly, Vera Brown, Cora Barnes, Jennie Wiliams, Emma Slaughter, Viola Payne, James Patterson. India Wade, Mary Carrithers, Ida Adams, Grace Potter, Jessie Ramsey, Edna Westervelt, Addie Dixon, Miss Martha Keenan, teacher; Grace Rockwood, Aline Remington, Mae Taplin, Pearl Shepherd, Ollie Baylor, Vila Sterling, Edna Fourth row: Merry Knudsen, Bridget, Duggan, Gertrude Hass- sons, Bessie Beers, Jane, Fred Brydia, Cullie Huntoon, Robinson, Josephine, Patton, Babcock, Ethel Swap, Stelman, Marye [illegible] Hurt, Ith Taylor: Horne Watkins, Ed Talbott, Harvey Wilson, Jay Carithers, Will Fugett, Frodsen, [illegible] Jessie Parschon, Bessie Beers, Jane Gillette, Fred Brydia, Cullie Huntoon, John Robinson, Josephine Patton, Vera Babcock, Ethel Swap, Stella Norman, Mary Ellis, Lillian Bills. Top row: Bertha Buckwalter, Ed Talbott, Harvey Wilson, Jay Claudon, Ora Gordon, Truman Carrithers, Will Fugate, Fred Kol- Dave Loughran and Vernia Habb.

Fairbury Navy Mothers Organize In 1943

In April 1943 this club was organized with a membership of 16. On May 17, 1943, a charter was issued to this club. The following names appear on this charter,

Inez Walker
Lucille Vernia
Catherine Newman
Phoebe Sparks
Hazel Merrill
Helen Bess (Deceased)
Mabel Alexander
Zoa Reis
Nettie Karnes
Nellie Cox
Frances Nolan
Laura Jarvis
Florene Fosdick
Nola Hurt
Pauline Paternoster
Mary Scott

First Officers elected were,
Zoa Reis—Commander
Inez Walker—Vice Commander
Catherine Newman—Adjutant
Laura Jarvis—Finance Officer
Mabel Alexander-Chaplin

Members of this club are Mothers of sons and daughters who were or are members of Navy, Marines or Coast Guard.

This Club meets the second Monday of every month. The first few years the club met in the city hall, now they meet in the homes of the members.

The aims and purposes of this club are, to help veterans and their families who are in distress and also to remember our boys of this community who are in any branch of the armed Forces, with a Christmas box. We also make donations to the Dwight Veterans Hospital.

During World War II, we sewed 21 layettes which were sent to the Naval Hospital in Boston, Mass.

The Club purchased and donated to the Dwight Veterans Hospital, a spinet piano and bench, a bulletin board and a large shadow box for the patients recreation room.

Last Christmas we packed and shipped 43 boxes to the boys in the service.

At the close of World War II the total membership was 32. At the present we have 16 members, 4 of them are charter members, they are,

Inez Walker
Catherine Newman
Laura Jarvis
Nola Hurt

Money is earned by this club, by selling tags on Navy Day, Oct. 27, by raffling of hand made quilts, rummage sales and the sale of Christmas cards. The money is used for helping distressed veterans and their families and the packing of Christmas boxes for the boys in the service of this community, donations to Dwight Veterans Hospital, the Polio fund, the Red Cross, and the Salvation Army.

Officers serving this year in the Fairbury Navy Mothers Club are as follows,

Marie Kohlman—Commander
Laura Jarvis—Vice Commander
Catherine Newman—Adjutant
Gladys Wilson—Finance Officer
Marguerite Bills—Chaplin
Catherine Newman—Publicity

LACC Founded In 1920

The L. A. C. C. or the Lodemia Avoca Community Club was organized in 1920 at the home of Mrs. Jerome Ruff. The club was organized to be a community club with ladies belonging who lived in and around Lodemia and in Avoca Township. At first they planned to have just twenty-four members two for entertaining each month. The daughters were associate members. In several years the membership increased and at the present time there are thirty-two members. Mrs. Rose Morrison was its first president, Margaret Ruff, first vice-president and Avis Masterson its first secretary.

Mrs. Nellie Ruff, deceased, was a charter member and had kept all but four of the club books from which we obtained a lot of information.

Mrs. Nell Sparks is the only charter member who is still active in the club. Our club meets every third Thursday of the month with many Fairs held that month.

Charter members were:
Rose Morrison

Margaret Ruff Nellie Ruff
Avis Masterson Amelia Morrison
Stella Tavener
Bertah Scherr Bowker
Nellie McIntyre Ida Powell
Anna Tucker Laura Bemis
Anna Menton Kate Shafer
Mrs. Roy Smith
Anna Jacobs
Lucy Law
Margaret De Moss

This list may not be complete as they had no club books for several years.

The club was organized to be a social club and still is. Although we try to help with things in the community, such as the hospital, Fairbury and Pontiac, Red Cross, T. B. seals. Boxes are packed and sent to sons of members in the service at Christmas time.

Picnics for members and their families is an annual affair. One of the first banquets of the club was held at the home of Mrs. E. F. Law with eighty-four in attendance.

The club colors are lavender and white and their flower is the carnation

Past Presidents and the years they served:

1920-1929—Rose Morrison
1929-1931—Nell Sparks
1931-1932—Phoebe Sparks
1932-1934—Nellie Ruff
1934-1936—Avis Masterson
1936-1937—Irene Bentley

1937-1938—Nellie Ruff
1938-1940—Tillie Green
1940-1942—Lorena Tavener
1942-1944—Nola Ellinger
1944-1946—Ethel Ziller
1946-1947—Aldine Stivers
1947-1948—Frances Holsclaw
1948-1949—Frances Maley
1949-1950—Nellie Mae Smith
1950-1951—Cathryn Frisby
1951-1953—Cora Dart
1953-1955—Virginia Bressner
1955-1957—Lorena Tavener

The present officers elected in April of 1957 are:

President—Olive Stephens
Vice President—Cathryn Frisby
Secretary—Delma Freed
Treasurer—Janet Metz.

The following poem was in the front of the 1924-25 book.

THE HOUSEKEEPERS CREED

I believe housekeeping is and should be interesting work, and that the majority of women would enjoy it more if they had the opportunity to know more of its science; that it must be considered elevating—the highest art—and not a brainless occupation.

A club song was written by Laura Bemis to the tune of "Sweet Adeline" and appeared in the 1926-27 book. These are the words:

L.A.C.C. L.A.C.C.
To us, you'll always, always be,
Our love sincere, we'll give to thee;
You're the darling of our hearts.

L.A.C.C.
Dear club of ours, sweet club of ours,
There's lots we'll do
With all our powers.
And when we shine
Won't that be fine?
You're the sweetest thing
We know, L.A.C.C.

L.A.C.C. L.A.C.C.
We surely hope
You're here to stay

We think that you
Do surely pay;
And we love you more each day,

L.A.C.C.

Dear members now,
Each take a vow.
To stand for her
Each daily hour,
We'll all do good
Thats in our power
And we'll always want to be
L.A.C.C.

The Fidelis Sunday School Class of the First Presbyterian Church celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary Saturday evening. Thirty-nine attended the festivities at the Honegger House which featured a three course dinner served at tables decorated with pyramids of gold colored mums with a gold embossed FIFTY on each pyramid. Corsages for each of the guests were attached to the pyramid and to a golden streamer with which each member drew out her corsage. Golden candles lighted the tables and individual golden nut cups were used.

The invocation was given by Mrs. Anna Marie Harrison, pastor's wife. Mrs. Bertha Zeh, president of the class, gave the official welcome and expressed thanks to the committee. Mrs. Gladys Patterson was general chairman; Mrs. Grace Masterson, Mrs. Ann Schlipf and Mrs. Eunice Pratt were in charge of arrangements and decorations.

Mrs. Helen Kirks formerly of Fairbury and now living at Sheldon served as toastmistress for the evening; she was presented by Mrs. Zeh.

Two former teachers, Mrs. Addie Huette and Mrs. Elizabeth Agard, and several members have died, Mrs. Eunice Pratt read a memorial poem and the list of deceased members: Mrs. Maybelle Ramsey Reynolds, Mrs. Hazel Brady McHatton, Mrs. Flo Vestile Voris, Mrs. Esther Williams Wharton, Mrs. Lottie Ricketts Ramseyer, Mrs. Marguerite Camp Vanshoik, Mrs. Mae Horine Vail and Mrs. Hazel Jessup Thomas.

The current teacher, Mrs. Louise Borngasser, who gave a short resume of the class studies expressed her hope for a still larger attendance.

Toastmistress Dirks then introduced Mrs. Hazel Brown Strick of Chicago and Mrs. Una Schmidt who gave histories of the class. Mrs. Strick substituted for Mrs. Emma Burt who was ill.

Mrs. Strick told of the first twenty years of the class; how the members planted potatoes, collected all kinds of papers and even baled the papers, in short, did anything that would show a profit.

Mrs. Schmidt told of later years; about The Fidelis Cook Book and cited many of the recipes which were in it, of the annual auction sales (some of the members yielding to the excitement of the moment have raised their own bids; and of the boxes that are sent to the Mary Holmes Seminary, a negro college at West Point, Mississippi. She had visited the college in 1951 and gave a brief history of it.

Her closing lines were Henry Ford's and are an apt summation of the first fifty years of the Fidelis Class.

Coming together is the beginning,
Thinking together is Unity,
Keeping together is progress,
And working together is success.

Several old pictures were passed around the tables and each member had been asked to bring her baby picture. These were all numbered and then passed for attempts at identification.

Out-of-towners in attendance were Mrs. Helen Voorhees Dirks of Sheldon, Mrs. Elsie Householder Rinkenberger of Bradford, Mrs. Hazel Brown Strick of Chicago, Mrs. Abbie Faw Ford of Benson, Mrs. Edith Fry Chenoweth of Pontiac and Miss Fan Reinhardt of Peoria.

Mrs. Ann Schlipf, secretary, read letters from members who were unable to attend; namely, Miss Lillian Vail of Virginia, Mrs. Anna Householder Hoey of San Antonio, Texas and Miss Nelle Carrithers of Meadows.

Organize Royal Neighbors Here March 17, 1906

The Royal Neighbors of America organized a local camp in Fairbury on March 17th 1906, to be known as the Willing Workers Camp No. 3319.

The charter was signed by 27 members as follows:

Ira Brown, Nellie Brown, Ella Calmer, Minnie Camp, Lottie Chambers, Joseph Denarski, Nellie Eddy, Agnes Ellis, Bertha Gordon, Jennie Hamilton, Myrtle Hillyer, Jacob Hoker, Mary E. Hoker, Theresa Hoker, Hattie Jacobs, Elizabeth Joda, Josie Kring, Besse Kuhn, Leroy Kuhn, Lena Lough, Rank Rose, Susan Rose, Mary Smith.

The camp now holds regular meetings in the City Hall on the first Thursday of each month and has 127 adult members and 27 Juvenile members. The present officers are: Gladys Wilson, Oracle; Minnie Deputy, Vice Oracle; Jean Sparks, Past Oracle; Dora Gibb, Chancellor; Bertha M. Zeh, Recorder; Lulu E. Harper, Receiver.

The Royal Neighbors of America is a Fraternal Life Insurance Company, with the head office in Rock Island, Illinois and in Davenport, Iowa.

Members of her Methodist Church Sunday School class met Feb. 29, 1924, for a party in honor of Mrs. Marvin Goold's birthday. Bottom row, left to right, are Mrs. Anderson, James Goold, Mrs. Marvin Goold, Mrs. James Carter. Second row, Mrs. Bodley, Mrs. Ella Lewis, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Flora Kerr. Top Row, Mrs. G. B. Gordon, Mrs. Nora Wilson, Mrs. Sarah Crowe and Mrs. Eva Burns.

Dr. Barnes

Jack Walton

Winter of 1900 brought this huge snowfall to Fairbury mainstreet. In those days you didn't go through the snow, you went on it. Note absence of clock on town hall building at right.

The exact occasion which brought about this gathering of Fairbury people is not clear, but it was taken one day in 1914 in front of what is now the Payne Plumbing shop.

This horse drawn hearse owned by the John P. Cook funeral home about 70 years ago was the Cadillac of its class in that day.

Heavy snow of 1889 was shoveled off streets and left in heaps, with tunnels dug through at intervals to allow foot traffic to pass. Picture was taken by George Keyes. The "Sherman Hotel" sign on one of the buildings is faintly visible today. The structure now houses the Fairbury Bakery and the M & M Tap.

Charter members of the Home Domestic Science club in 1950 were, left to right, Mrs. Lulu Cuddeback, Mrs. Maude Graves, Mrs. Annis Sutter, Mrs. Elsie Troehler and Mrs. Grace Orendorf.

The Claudon Barn

Barn and garage belonging to Jay Claudon burned Oct. 20, 1920. Methodist church is shown in background at left. Fultz photo.

Sunday School Class Beginning Of Art Club

The Art Club was organized in 1904, originating from a Sunday School class of the Methodist Church taught by Miss Goldanna Cook. This group of young ladies became interested in the study of American Art and literature and formed a club for further study, taking the name “The Study Club.” The Charter members were: Jessie Brydia, Goldanna Cook, Addie Dixon, Lenore McDowell, Viola Milne, Josephine Patton, Edna Westervelt and Anna Wilson. Three years later four new members were added to the roll. Their names were: Ethel Swap, Aline Heckman, Bertha Cook and Mrs. Kuhn.

Throughout the fifty-three years of the club’s existence it has had a membership of about seventy-five. Twenty members are deceased.

Josephine Patton Mack retained her membership throughout her life and at the time of her death, May 22, 1957 was the only charter member of the present organization.

Soon after the club was organized its purpose became two-fold, study and social, and remains so today. All who have known the association of Art Club have cherished many happy memories.

The club has had a part in many philanthropic enterprises. During the First World War, the Red Cross received help in raising funds. Magazine subscriptions have been given to the Dominy Library and books have been given to the library as memorials to deceased members. It has long been the custom of the club to remember the Fairbury Hospital with gifts at Christmas time. The Club members have helped the Hospital Auxiliary with its work at the snack bar.

In 1932 a cut leaf maple tree was planted on the lawn of the library as a memorial celebrating the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington, the first president of the United States. A bronze plaque, bearing the proper inscription, was placed at the foot of the tree.

The Golden anniversary of the club was celebrated on April 5, 1954 at the home of Gladys Patterson. A six o’clock dinner was served. Josephine Mack, the only charter member, entertained with history and highlights of the club’s fifty years.

The present membership includes sixteen active and four honorary members. The officers are:

President, Velda Maple; Vice-president, Margaret DeFries; Secretary, Gladys Patterson; Treasurer, Marjorie Thompson.

Church of Christ Here Founded In 1949

The Church of Christ, in Fairbury, had its beginning May 20, 1949, charter membership totaled 25. In the beginning the church met for worship in the home of one of its members. Later a home was purchased just west of the city limits on Highway 24, which served the congregation until Feb. 1951.

From that date until June 1957, the church rented and used as a meeting house the A.M.E. property located at 2nd and Walnut. The church now meets at corner of 5th and Walnut, the meeting house purchased in Aug. 1957, from the Trinity Lutheran church.

Ministers who were interested in, and helped the church before it became a corporate body, are, Mr. Raymond Philipps, professor of New Testament, Lincoln Bible Institute, Lincoln Ill.; Mr. Leland Tyreell, founder and president of Winston-Salem Bible College, in N. Carolina, and Mrs. John Bolden, now deceased.

Ministers who have served the congregation, include Herbert W. Hill, Wayne Armstrong, Roger Elliott and Kenneth E. Broad. The present minister, Kenneth L. Broad, is uncle to the young man mentioned last in the listing above, and has been with the church a year as of this date. Present membership of the congregation is 30, of which number seven are charter members—members including, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Simmons, Mrs. Carlton Fitzgerald, Mr. and Wade Simmons, Mrs. Ada Schwarzwalder and Willis Schwarzwalder.

In addition to the recent purchase of a meeting house, the church is happy to announce that plans have been completed for the acquisition of the property at 609 W. Elm St., which will serve as a home for the minister.

The Church of Christ is unique in that local congregation governs herself according to the teaching of the Bible.

Being completely non-denominational, there is no board hierarchy or governing body to which the local church is subservient. In sincere humility, and upon this basis, the church of Christ in Fairbury seeks to serve the community.

Mrs. O. L. Veatch Organized Browning Club

In Jan. of 1912 Mrs. O. L. Veatch invited eight ladies to meet with her to organize a literary club. The name Browning Club was decided upon and Mrs. Veatch was elected president.

A committee was appointed to write the constitution and by-laws. The preamble read “This club is organized to promote the intellectual and social life of its members and to aid in civic and philanthropic affairs”.

The membership was limited to twelve ladies but a few years later it was decided to increase the number to sixteen. The first year the work of Robert and Elizabeth Browning was studied, later Bay View magazine, also Art and Music. After that varied programs were planned as a study of races,

nationalities, other countries besides our own which has been studied from various viewpoints. Famous men and women book reviews, debates, hobbies, such as old glassware, silver and china with many other topics have made interesting programs.

We have taken trips to Starved Rock, Deer Park, Morton Potteries, Peoria several times and last but not least toured the Honegger Mills.

We have given gifts to the Fairbury Hospital, Dominy Memorial Library, and Red Cross. Also to other helpful organizations soliciting funds. For several years we gave a bountiful Christmas basket of food to a needy family until the children were able to care for themselves.

Our social affairs are most enjoyable—four parties each year for the members—old fashioned parties, school girl parties, and those celebrating certain dates. There is always a Christmas gift exchange. Once a year there is a banquet at which time the husbands are entertained.

The fortieth anniversary of the club was observed in 1952 with an appropriate program and a birthday cake. Mrs. Jessie Love, the only one of the original twelve members now residing in Fairbury, cut and served the cake.

Thru the years our membership has changed. Some have changed their residence to new locations. Death has claimed nine of our members.

We have shared each other's sorrows as well as good fortunes—each instance strengthening our ties of friendship. We will never forget the associations and hope that thru them we have helped to make the world a little better place in which to live.

Browning Charter Membership

Mrs. O. L. Veatch, Mrs. Harry Reynolds, Mrs. Wirt Lowther, Mrs. Ed. Meeker, Mrs. Henning, Mrs. Will P. M. Hotaling, Mrs. Charles Maunder, Miss Nellie Goshorn.

Later Mrs. V. L. Dally, Mrs. Homer Stewart, Mrs. Jessie Love, Miss Emma Fuessley.

Present membership: Mrs. Elmer L. Baily, Mrs. C. B. Day, Mrs. Roscoe Combes, Mrs. Ida Goold, Mrs. C. J. Hadaway, Mrs. James Harrison, Mrs. Walter Henning, Mrs. Harry Klopfenstein, Mrs. Jessie E. Love, Mrs. J. A. Pittman, Mrs. Wallace Ramseyer, Mrs. H. C. Saurer, Mrs. Andrew Steidinger, Mrs. Fred Wing, Mrs. C. B. Ziegenhorn.

Out of town members are Mrs. Ray Melvin, and Mrs. Wm. Arends.

HDS Club Is 45 Years Old

The Home Domestic Science Club was organized in May 1913, at the home of Mrs. Clara Corkhill, under the supervision of Mrs. Chas. Moffett. Charter members as of June 19, 1913, being Mrs. Clara Corkhill, Mrs. Maude Graves, Mrs. Annis Sutter, Mrs. Emily Ricketts, Miss Stella Ricketts, Mrs. Grace Orendorf, Mrs. Nannie Freed, Miss Pearl Corkhill, Miss Alda Ricketts, Miss Elizabeth Wessels, Mrs. Lena Wessels, Miss Hazel Freed, Mrs. Ethel Seale, Mrs. Elsie Troehler, Mrs. Edwina Stauffer and Mrs. Mary Harrington. First officers of the club were Pres. Mrs. Annis Sutter, Vice-pres. Mrs. Maude Graves, Sec. and Treas., Mrs. Mary Sullivan; Ass't. Sec. and Treas. Miss Stella Ricketts, musical director, Mrs. Nannie Freed. The club chose for its Motto "To make our work lighter, our bodies healthier and our homes happier", selecting the white carnation as its club flower, and chose purple and white for its club colors. At that time the Department of Household Science was affiliated with the state, and was a branch of the Farmers State Institute, the club sending a representative to the Annual State meeting of the Household Science Department.

Being affiliated with the State Department of Household Science gave us the privilege of writing in for help on making out our programs, also for help on papers and topics assigned to us at the monthly meetings. Our programs were always helpful and interesting, covering all subjects pertaining to the home, and branching out into literary lines. In later years, after the coming of radio, and more recently the advent of television, interesting programs in home management and culinary arts were obtained through both of these sources, so the monthly club meetings were given over on a partial scale to afternoons of relaxation and entertainment, when we could lay aside household cares and responsibilities and enjoy a social afternoon together.

Realizing the urgent need for help in various fields of benevolence, we have always tried to render aid whenever it was possible. During World War I we did knitting for the Red Cross, we also did sewing for the French children, and supported a French War orphan, Georgette Champion, for 2 years during 1919-1920. During World War II we packed boxes for the boys in service. We have also made contributions to the Red Cross, made cash donations to the Dominy Memorial Library, and to the building funds of the Fairbury hospital, and have given donations of canned fruit, jellies etc., to the hospital at Christmas time.

We have also done mending and folded bandages for the hospital at our club meetings, and for a number of years now have furnished pies for the Snack Bar at the hospital. In 1925 we donated $15 to the Farmers Relief Fund to help those made homeless by the tornado that struck Southern Illinois.

To raise money for the treasury in order to finance these various projects we have held bake sales, served lunches at farm sales, sold jello, and in 1918 we compiled a cookbook containing recipes contributed by members of the Club. The sale of these Cook books netted a neat sum for the treasury. Other means of raising money have been holding silent auctions, white elephant sales or by special assessments, the members always responding willingly and generously whenever they are called upon.

In the way of recreational activities, we have had the annual fried chicken suppers in one of the summer months and the midwinter banquets, or family nights, and for the past few years we have held the annual anniversary parties at the E & E Cafe in May. Another source of recreation has been numerous bus trips to Chicago and other places of interest, which always proved to be very enjoyable occasions.

As the years have gone by 22 of our members have left our midst, and gone to that fair land beyond the

Sunset. They are Margaret Corkhill, Caroline Cuddeback, Lena Wessels, Permelia Burnham, Mary Harrington, Elizabeth Knoll, Lena Schlicker, Cora Ploense, Emily Ricketts, Edwina Stauffer, Anna Dringenberg, Effie Deist, Gertrude Kelso, Vina Garland, Fern Schlicker, Nannie Freed, Mary Sullivan, Lulu Cuddeback, Edna Hobart, Annis Sutter, Hazel Thomas and Pearl Koerner. We shall always cherish the memory of these who have been associated with us as friends and members.

The club is now in its 45th year, and probably what might be an illustration of its success, and a demonstration of the keen interest maintained in the club is the fact that we now have the second and third generation of several families as members of the club, and many of our members have been affiliated with the club for an extended period of years, ranging from 15, 20 to 30 years or more.

In addition to the material things that we have accomplished, and the success that we have proudly achieved, we have in our work and co-operation together formed ties of friendship that have grown stronger throughout the years.

After summing up the past and considering the keen interest that is still maintained, we can feel confident that we can look forward to the future with the assurance that the Home Domestic Science Club will continue to carry on with the same feeling of co-operation and helpfulness that it has so strongly demonstrated in the past 45 years.

Elsie Troehler (Club Historian).

Organize PNG's In 1922

On January 16th, 1922 Mrs. Hannah Housely called a meeting of Charity Home Rebekah Lodge of all of the Past Noble Grands of No. 112 of Fairbury to organize a Past Noble Grands Club. This meeting was held in the IOOF building. The first elective officers of the newly formed club were, President, Mrs. Housely; vice-pres., Mrs. Grace Cox; Rec. Secretary, Mrs. Mollie Denarske and the treasurer, Mrs. Alice Jones. Mrs. Jeannie Carter initiated 22 members into the club, the seven living charter members are as follows; Mrs. Pearl Arthur, Mrs. Grace Cox, Mrs. Myrtle Clemens, Mrs. Orrel Drennen, Mrs. Elizabeth Haner; and Mrs. Maude Monroe Carter, now the charter members who have passed away are, Mrs. Housely, Mrs. Dora Bennett, Mrs. Clara Bennett, Mrs. Belle Comes, Mrs. Sarah Crowe, Mrs. Mollie Denarske, Mrs. Carrie Frye, Mrs. Christina Hahn, Mrs. Alice Jones, Mrs. Mary Lange, Mrs. Viola Mowry, Mrs. Elsie Milne, Mrs. Ida Shook, Mrs. Laura Shroyer and Miss Lizzie Wessels.

They held their meetings on the third Tuesday of each month in the afternoons in the Odd Fellows hall. After their business meetings they would do quilting, tieing comforters, and did various kinds of work for the local hospital, and made several cushions and gave these to the Old Folks Home at Mattoon, along with comforters. They also quilted many quilts and tied comforters for other people getting paid for it to help swell their treasury. The club gave numerous articles to the Odd Fellows for the kitchen and dining room.

In May 1938 the club held a picnic at the home of one of the members, Mrs. Elizabeth Haner who had moved on a farm close to Saybrook. This was a very enjoyable day, and Mrs. Edna Anderson was the club's president during the year of 1938. The following picture was taken at the home of Mrs. Haner's and they are as follows:

Then on September 20th of 1938 the Past Noble Grands club of Fairbury held a Livingston County Guest Day tea inviting the other Past Noble Grands in the County, namely from Forrest, Saunemin, Odell, Dwight, and Pontiac. It was during this meeting that it was voted to have a Livingston County Past Noble Grands Association to meet once a year in the month of September. This association was organized by Mrs. Edna Anderson of Fairbury and she was the first County President in the year of 1939 and the Association met that year in Forrest. Other County Presidents from the Fairbury club were, Mrs. Maurine Metz, Mrs. Mabel Cox, and Mrs. Betty Callaby.

During the past 35 years of the Past Noble Grands club of Fairbury there has been 68 Past Noble Grands who have joined the club. There are 33 deceased members and there are 35 living members at the present time. There are 20 living Past Presidents of the club and 15 deceased Past Presidents of the club.

During the later years the club meets at the homes of the members still having the third Tuesday of each month, and after the business meeting a social time is held. During the months of February and August at their meetings the club entertains the Noble Grand and Vice-grand of Charity Home Rebekah Lodge, with their husbands and families, which are very enjoyable evenings.

The December meeting is always a Christmas party with a pot-luck supper and each member brings home-made cookies and candies and this is all packed and sent to the Old Folks, for their Christmas at the Old Folks Home at Mattoon, Ill.

The present 1957 officers of the club are as follows:

President, Mrs. Wilma Peters;
Vice-pres., Mrs. Margaret Cox;
Rec. secretary, Mrs. Maurine Metz;
Corr. secretary, Mrs. Dora Gibb;
Treasurer, Mrs. Lulu Harper;
Warden, Mrs. Beulah Dameron;
Conductor, Mrs. Una Schmidt;
Chaplin, Mrs. LaVerne Tyler;
R. S. to President, Mrs. Grace Cox;
L. S. to President, Mrs. Minnie Mowry;
R. S. to Vice-pres., Mrs. Betty Callaby;
L. S. Vice-pres., Mrs. Mable Cox;
Inside guardian, Mrs. Editha Decker;
Outside guardian, Mrs. Martha Thomas, Jr.

Jr. Past Pres., Mrs. Arleen Link;
Musician, Miss Irene Denarske,
Club reporter, Mrs. Una Schmidt.

Theta Rho 22 Years Old

The Theta Rho Grils Club was instituted by Mrs. Sophia Peterson on the evening of April 2nd, 1936. Our club was the second Theta Rho Club in the district that was organized. (Bloomington was first)

Evelyn Reany and LaVerne Metz went to Bloomington to receive information on the club. To organize a club they had to have at least 30 girls sign up. When it came time for the club to be instituted they had 32 girls for membership.

The first officers of the club were:

President—Wilma Jean Troehler
Vice-president—Evelyn Carter
Recording Secretary—Helen Beckly

Financial secretary—Pat Bradwell.

Treasurer—Mildred Cooper

Some of the first members include, LaVerne Metz, Wilma Schmidt, Elizabeth Drennen, Lois Bedell, Valerie Fultz and Mona Waples.

The first advisor was Mrs. Maurice Metz who held the office for 12 and one-half years and Mrs. Reany was assistant advisor.

In going back through the history of the club, I found they had a very good showing of members every

time they had a meeting. They gave benefit shows at the Central Theatre to raise money. They also had several progressive suppers, going house to house for each course which kept an interest in the club. Also they had tea for their mothers, card parties etc.

During their first year they entertained the children at the Lincoln home. They put on a drill for the children of the home and the whole state of Illinois which placed second.

In August 1936, they went to the orphan's home, and took their own dinner plus enough for one person from the orphanage. They found it very interesting talking to the children and taking a special tour of the buildings at Lincoln.

They received their charter on the night of Dec. 3, 1936.

On Dec. 8, 1937 George H. Franzen gave the Theta Rho Girls a supper up at the hall.

During the years they have done lots of service work. One of the most interesting things they done was make bedside bags for the hospital out of newspaper during the war.

During the years they have done a lot of service work for the hospital, which was their aim.

Some of the other advisors have been Florence Gerdes, Irene Bentley (deceased), Ethel Ziller, Rowena Paternoster, Joyce Crews and Patty Mundell (together) and now Mrs. Bruce Barnes.

Written by Alice Barnes.

Members of the American Legion Auxiliary posed for this picture a number of years ago. They are, left to right, first row, Frances Bartlett Edna Milne, Wilma Peters. Second row, Elizabeth Compton, Ella Harrison, Edith Steidinger, Marguerite Bills.

Standing are Vera Hoffman, Ida Crouch, Naomi Drennen, Anna Householder, unidentified, Pearl Waters, Ida Garber, Edith Puffer, Ethel Wessels, Mrs. Luhring, Hazel Thomas and Catherine Wink.

Water wagon pulled by eight horse hitch was rather common site in Fairbury around 1915. Scene shows buildings just across from Central Park. First National Bank Langstaff and Masonic buildings had not yet been built.

First store at right housed the drug store operated by Phil Wade. Next came the Bakery, then N. L. Wann, clothing, and the B. and V. Store. Down the street west was the Electric Theatre.

This scene was taken anywhere from 1905 to 1915.

Photo courtesy of Fairbury Jefferson County Historical Association.

Fourth of July celebration in 1896 was caught by cameraman. Flag has 45 stars in it and, was therefore, apparently a new one, for 45th state to enter Union, Utah, did so on Jan. 4, 1896. Organization was one held by the Fairbury Grand Army Post. Ladies at far left are Mrs. Ruth Carter, Mrs. Ben Robinson and Mrs. N. E. Fulton. Standing at right is Col. Ben Robinson. Seated at far right are Mr. and Mrs. Ira Pratt.

Tile laying crew is shown on a slushy day in 1925. Name on one of the trucks identifies it as belonging to Herr Brothers. Small lettering on last truck in line says "sold by Central Motor Co., Piper City,". Fultz photo.

Carl. Goudy gained a national reputation for himself and for Fairbury with his escapades as a motorcycle racer. Goudy held many speed records, including the worlds set at Columbus, Ohio on August 24, 1913. The above picture was taken at that event.

Carl's younger brother, Will, was killed making a practice run while preparing for a race in California.

This scene was shot in 1907 dur- ing the course of Baptist church picnic.

Gwen Williams was the teacher of this 1913 Fairbury grade school class, but no others were identified. How many do you know? Fultz photo.

Home of James McDowell stood at the corner of Maple and Second streets. Standing in front is Mrs. McDowell. Her Granddaughter, Gertrude McDowell, is seated on the steps.

Winter scene of some years agobe the Armstrong sisters. The pic-
tings back memories for many.ture is the property of Hester K.
-ls in the cutter are believed to Newland, of San Pedro, Calif.

The Sunbeam Sewing Club was organized on April 16, 1914 at the home of Mrs. James E. Harrington with Virginia Harrington McCarty as president and Alma Ploense Jacobs as Secretary. Those who joined during the first year included Hazel Freed Becker, Elizabeth Wessels Knoll, Virgie Freed Wessels, Ruth Freed Seig, Louise Harrington Yeagle and Estella Ricketts Williamson Ziller.

The purpose of the club was to take instructions in sewing, which they did under the direction of Estella Ricketts until she married and left the community.

For a time the officers served for six months, but this was later changed to each group of officers serving one year.

The first programs were gotten out in 1916 when Louise Harrington Yeagle was president. Subjects relating to the various phases of home life were discussed.

It was the custom of the club members to give a linen shower and cook book to a member who announced her approaching marriage and if a member moved from the community she was given a silver thimble.

The members have tried to be helpful in their activities as well as enjoying each other's hospitality.

In the year after World War I the club contributed to the support of a French war orphan.

They gave a sum of money to the American Legion Home fund in 1920. Also at various times help has been given to The Dwight Hospital, Fairbury Hospital, Dominy Library, Normal Baby Fold and other worth while projects including packing Christmas dinner baskets for unfortunate families and giving to the "Gifts for Yanks" who gave."

The club has used various means to raise money: making quilts, quilting, ice cream socials, bake sales and lately silent and oral auctions. One of the highlights of our social activity being the annual family party which we enjoy usually in January or February.

There are seven of our members who have gone to receive the reward everlasting and each memorial day their resting place is visited and a plant placed there in their memory.

They are Miss Irene Worrick, Mrs. Hazel McHatton, Mrs. Elizabeth Knoll, Mrs. Anna Dringenberg, Miss Louise Troehler, Mrs. Fern Schlicker and Mrs. Irene Bentley.

None of the original members still belong to the club but there are five who have since almost the beginning. They are Grace Vance, Ethel Fetzer, Evelyn Wessels, Gladys Hacker Wessels and Esther Barnes.

Bertha Bodley and Edna Metz have been members of the club since 1920.

The officers at this time are Pres. LaVerne Tyler, Vice-Pres. Pearl Thompson, Sec. Marie Fent, and Treasurer, Edna Metz.

We meet the second Wednesday in the month and always look forward to Sunbeam day. After roll call

and the regular business meeting a committee provides entertainment. Then a delicious lunch is served by the hostesses and a very pleasant time is enjoyed by all.

Rebekahs Begun Here In 1893

Charity Home Rebekah Lodge No. 112 was instituted in the I.O.O.F. Hall located upstairs in the building now occupied by the Farmer's National Bank.

Application for a charter had been signed by the following: Mrs. E. M. Phillips, Mrs. J. F. Moberly, Mr. S. E. Zimmerman, Mr. R. W. Streeper, Mr. J. F. Moberly, Mr. M. G. Sterling and Mr. John Munro.

Following the institution ceremonies the following petitioners were admitted: Bro. A. H. Mundt, Bro. H. F. Ramsey, Bro. T. A. McKenzie, Bro. T. S. O. McDowell, Bro. E. M. Phillips, Bro. L. J. Lough, Bro. J. W. Morris, Mrs. J. W. Morris, Bro. W. H. Karnes, Bro. A. B. Wharton.

The first officers of the lodge were:

N. G.—T. S. O. McDowell, V. G.—Sister J. H. Shover, Sec.—Sadie Karnes, Treas. Edna Ross (Anderson), R.S.N.G.—Mrs. J. F. Moberly, L.S.N.G.—Mrs. S. E. Zimmerman, conductress—Nettie Lough (Karnes), Warden—Rose McDowell, Inside Guardian—Mrs. J. W. Morris, Outside Guardian—E. M. Phillips, R.S.V.G—H. J. Ramsey, L.S.V.G.—Mrs. M. M. Clemens, Judge Deputy—W. I. Stringer

There have been many changes through the years both in membership and in the organization in the state and district.

Officers were elected for a term of 6 months. Now the term is 12 months. Ladies fill all of the offices.

There have been four of the members who have served as President of the district. Mrs. Ida Shook, Mrs. James Goodrich, Miss Irene Denarske, and Mrs. Una Schmidt.

The 50th anniversary of our order was observed in 1943 with appropriate ceremonies.

The order has had a degree staff to initiate candidates. Mrs. Ida Hollenback served as staff Captain for many years. T. W. Milne is the present staff captain.

We are very proud to help in the support of two fine homes. The children's home at Lincoln and the Old Folks Home at Mattoon.

Goldanna Cook Formed Study Club Here

In 1904 Miss Cook was a teacher in the Methodist Sunday School of Fairbury. Her class of young ladies organized a study club under her leadership, choosing the name "The Art Study Club" because of their interest in American Art.

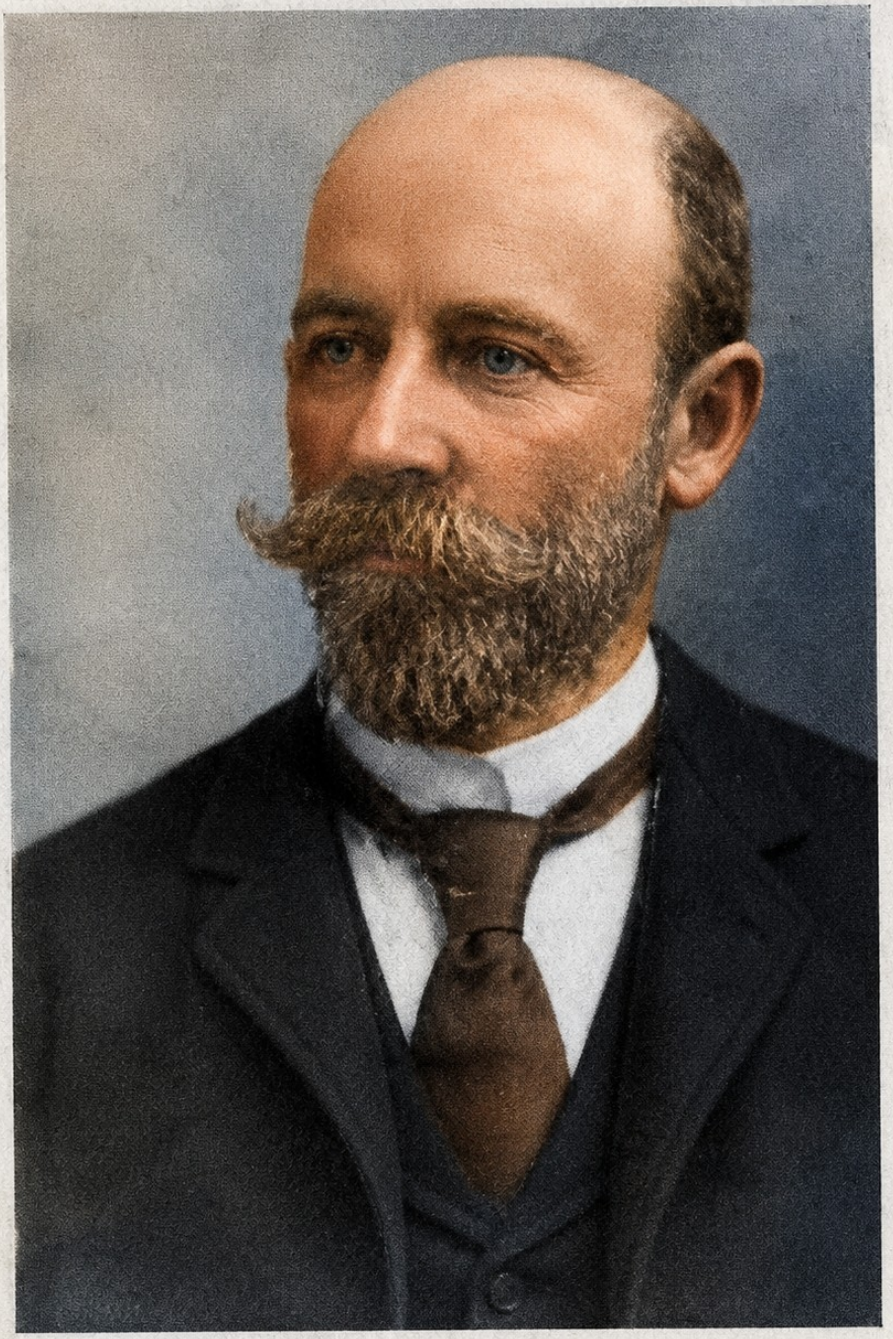
Later Miss Cook moved to Peoria, Illinois, and served as secretary of the Y. W. C. A. for a number of years.

At the time of her death in July 1950, memorial services were held at the Westminster Presbyterian church in Peoria. Rev. William F. O'Neill said in part: "We do not need, even at this time, to recall the many benefactions that Goldanna Cook rendered in her community, they live in our minds like some secret, holy presence, and they have become a part of the music of the world."

Legion Auxiliary members above are Ogarita Fugate, Anna Householder, Della Henning, Ethel Wharton and Elsie Milne.

The second decade of the 20th ton and Elsie Milne.

M. A. Anderson



Phil Wade

Fairbury once had a bottling plant, which bottled soft drinks. Building in which it was located still stands in alley on north side of town. Men in picture are Mr. Combs and Hollenbeck.

A western setting for a TV show? No, just Fairbury's main street back in the days of the horse and mud streets. Picture was taken looking east from the corner of Second and Locust.

Baptist Church Sunday School class looked like this in 1909. The members are, left to right, standing Nita, Meyers, Nelia Meyers, Ruth Bradshaw, Rubie ——, Nola Goslin, Irene Denarske. Sitting are Hester Keyes, Ethel Watkins and Viola Lawrence.

Modern Woodsmen of America once had Fairbury chapter. Shown above are left to right, top row, Albert Waples, Sam A. Demler, William Demler, William Hallock, In front row are Bess E. Demler. Joe Denarske, Frank Combs. Fred Lough and William Morton.

Legion Auxiliary held meeting outdoors one summer day during World War II. Above are Louise Yeagle, Wilma Peters, Vera Hoffman and Edith Puffer.

Helping the Legion prepare of a Fourth of July celebration in 1932 were these members of the Legion Auxiliary, Inez Miesenhelder, at left, Una Schmidt, at left, in truck, Edith Puffer and Dorothy Wince.

This shot of Fairbury Fair gr- taken sometime before the turn of
ounds was beleived to have been the century.

Entrance to south mine shaft as it appeared in 1941.

Water tower directly preceding here shown as workman were lay-
present one was built in 1899, ising brick. It was torn down in 1948.

Legion Aux Begun In 1920

On May 3, 1920, a meeting was called by the Executive committee of the local American Legion Post for the purpose of organizing a Women's Auxiliary unit of the Legion. Fairbury, Illinois, the home of the John Joda post had 244 men and three nurses responding to their country's call during World War I.

Commander A. K. Hirstien explained the purpose of the meeting. Vice-Commander Wm. Mundt read and explained the temporary regulations governing the Auxiliary. The first year's membership was 137 and ten Gold Star members.

The following were the officers duly elected at this meeting of the infant organization which was to meet regularly in the Library. Mrs. Aldine Langstaff, president; Miss Edith Mitten, vice-president; Miss Esther Williams, secretary; Mrs. Maybelle Hirstein, treasurer, and Mrs. Linda Phelps, Mrs. Eva Burns, and Mrs. Ida Garber, executive committee.

The preamble of the constitution states, "For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association during the great war; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to participate in and to contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of the American Legion; to consecrate and sanctify our association by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

The program undertaken by the Auxiliary is practical, useful and varied. The principal divisions of service are Americanism; Gold Star; Community Service; Junior Activities; National Defense, Poppy; Legislative; Pan American; Child Welfare; and Rehabilitation.

The Americanism committee endeavors to teach and emphasize the knowledge and respect of our government. Attempts are made to inform the school children by conducting essay contests and awarding prizes. The subjects are pertinent to good citizenship. Respect for and knowledge of the American flag and its display is encouraged. Flags have been given to school and public buildings.

The Gold Star members are the mothers, sisters or daughters of men or women who gave their lives in the service. In May, the Gold Star members are honored by special program and gifts.

Community Service is an outstanding committee. The first project of the new organization in 1920 was the furnishing and decoration of the city rest room. A memorial tablet was dedicated November 11, 1926. It contained names of Veterans of World War I who lost their lives. The Auxiliary cooperated with other organizations in making this possible after the Council of National Defense donated the tablet.

Each year the Legion is entertained by the Auxiliary at a party complete with birthday cake and birthday gift.

The Auxiliary assists with the observance of Veteran's Day and Memorial Day. They have placed

markers on graves of all deceased members. Each year they decorate their graves with flowers. It also contributes to the Red Cross, Salvation Army, and other drives. The Auxiliary helped with sewing utility bags and making tray favors for the local hospital, at present providing one fracture bed, two pairs of crutches, 2 wheel chairs, a heat lamp and a resuscitator for use in the community.

A memorial book is donated to the Library in memory of each past president. Donations have been made to the library book and magazine funds.

In 1950, $100 was given to the Fairbury Hospital building fund. A card party in 1957 was held and the proceeds of approximately $85 were given to the current swimming pool fund.

Fruit and flowers are sent monthly to the sick and shutins. Insulin has been provided for a local young man since his pre-school days and it will be continued to be provided as long as needed.

Although Illini Girls State is primarily a place for instruction in citizenship, all girls have plenty of time for recreation. They may enjoy swimming, tennis, badminton and other sports. Each day a group is taken to Springfield to the State Capitol, Lincoln's Home and Tomb and other places of interest to citizens of Illinois.

From every section of the state these girls assemble on the campus of MacMurray College for a week of intensive training. They are taught the duties of citizens in the process of self-government. Our local unit has sponsored 13 girls to Girl's State. They include Jessie Frances Bartlett, Mary Ellen Wink, Betty Rathbun, Marian and Dorothy Henning, Janet and Kay French, Peggy Hoffman, Delores Peters, Ruth Cooper, Marlene Eacret, Gail Bruniga, and Marilyn Bach.

National Defense is stressed to make everyone alert to the needs of our country's defense. Instructions were given in case of national disaster, and how to prepare for it. Donations were given to the U.S.O. and scrap books were made during the War. National Defense plates were sold and money sent for that work.

In 1944 salvage of vital materials was actually assembled and brought to Fairbury. These collectors worked under the direction of Mrs. Una Schmidt, a unit member, who was county chairman of household salvage which included paper, fat, and tin cans.

Blood donors were sought among the members and volunteers of the general public.

The first objective of the Poppy program is to furnish pleasant and gainful employment to our disabled veterans in Illinois hospitals. During the winter months, these poppies are made. On Poppy Day in May there are offered to the general public for sale by the local Auxiliary women. The more sold, the larger the income for the veteran. The money the unit realizes is used for rehabilitation funds. Locally 1800 poppies were sold this year.

The Legislative Committee explains the bills in the Illinois and United States Congress that are of interest to the Legion and Auxiliary members and families. They collected signatures for the "Bill of Rights" which later was enacted into law.

The Pan American Committee attempts to acquaint our people with the inhabitants of the countries of South and Central America. To understand each other better is to live in peace with our neighbors.

The local unit contributes annually to the Auxiliary Loan Fund for worthy young people. They may borrow from this fund for their education.

The children of service men and women who are in need or alone are provided for by the Child Welfare Committee. In the current year $15 has been sent to the Department as our share of support. Thru the years, the unit has contributed via department, and directly have sent money for parties, graduations, special events. Each year lunches are taken by units of the district to the Soldiers and Sailors Home at Normal for a general picnic. Books, magazines, comics, puzzles, games have been sent to Normal. Our immediate responsibility has been Harboard Cottage.

REHABILITATION. While the works of the Auxiliary are manifold, the first and greatest responsibility is to the service man himself, especially in hospitals. John Joda unit has been generous with money, time and supplies to ease their want and suffering. Rehabilitation is now a nine-point program. (1) Insulin is supplied to all who need it and the current year Fairbury gave $15. (2) Christmas gifts are taken to the hospitals where inmates may select gifts to send home to families. Fairbury this year gave $25 to the Dwight Christmas fund. (3) Vaponefrin is used in treatment of asthma. For this John Joda Unit gave $15. (4) Canteen books service received $3 for veterans to buy a few of his needs. (5) Hospitality fund received $5 to sponsor parties, to furnish greeting cards, stamps, etc. for veterans. (6) Downey Nursery, where children are entertained while relatives visit veterans in hospitals, received $5. (7) Easter Gifts. These are handled similar to the Christmas gift program and received $35. (8) The Craft Shop was donated $3, with which veterans buy materials to fashion into articles for sale. Each year this unit brings in an assortment of craft articles and offers them to the general public for sale. The disabled veterans received what is realized from this sale. (9) The Treasure Chest was enriched by $30. This fund exemplifies its name for it proves to be a real treasure from which our hospital chairman can draw for the ever increasing need for cigarettes, creature comforts, candy or fruit, depending on the needs of patients she serves. Money is given through the department for craft exchange; Galesburg State Research Hospital; and prizes for the veterans writing projects.

Other items of rehabilitation other than the department's nine point program that Fairbury contributes to are, Yanks Who Gave; Leonard Wood Leprosy Memorial; Mother's Day carnation fund; and our prorate to Dwight is $24.

To carry on this charitable program funds are needed every year. For thirty-seven years, the methods were many and diversified. Among them have been home talent plays and benefit movies; luncheons; threshing dinners; and Mother-Daughter Banquet; stands at the fair; helping with spring festival; card parties; farm sales and Bake and Rummage sales; but one that proved most lucrative was the lunch stand at the automobile races. The year 1950 brought in $1348.31 from the races and the total receipts were $3138.43. The disbursements of that year were $1812.25. That year there was a membership of 195.

Past presidents of the Auxiliary are: Mrs. Aldine Langstaff, Mary Addis, Esther Wharton, Della Henning, Ethel Wharton, Ida Garber, Lillian Odell, Viola Mowery, Elizabeth Hanner, Ruth Taylor, Una Schmidt, Edith Bartlett Puffer, Laura Johnson Kotzias; Hazel Gerdes, Ogarita Fugate, Inez Miesenhelder, Wilma Peters, Edith Steidinger, Louise Yeagle, Vera Hoffman, Margaret Bauman, Mona Henning, Florence Helmers, Editha Decker, Mable Cox, Jessie Waters Peterman, Marilyn Wells, Anna Mae Ahring, Dorothy French, Mabyl Mehrkens, Betty Ricketts, Minnie Nylander, Marguerite Bills.

Leadership of members of this unit has been recognized beyond the home organization. Among those who have served outside the local unit are; Mrs. Una Schmidt as county president in 1934, Mrs. Edith

Puffer as county president and District Legislative Chairman, Mrs. Frances Bartlett as unit, county, district and Division Treas. of the 4th Division, president, and chairman of Division Poppy program. Mrs. Bartlett also was a member of the department Child Welfare Committee, Americanism Committee, Radio-television and Poppy Committee. Mrs. Louise Yeagle Div. Sec. and Division publicity.

To the officers, chairman and unit members of the past 37 years it may be said that "no one ever does anything for others without helping themselves." And to all members whose united effort has made these achievements possible and to hope to continue we say with Kipling "It ain't the individual. Nor the army as a whole, But the everlasting teamwork of every bloomin' soul."

Woman's Club Active In Community Work

About thirty-five years ago a group of Fairbury women became interested in the organization of a Woman's Club as a means of promoting the cultural and educational betterment of their community. Many other women were interested, and accordingly, plans were made to create such an association. All of the many study groups functioning at that time disbanded. Two of these, the "Eurodelphian" and "Culture" clubs, enrolled their entire membership in the new organization. Work progressed through the summer and on October 2, 1923, "The Woman's Club of Fairbury" with a membership of 190, made its bow to the community.

The Club functioned by means of an Executive Board which consisted of the President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, two members at large, and the chairman of each Department.

Mrs. D. F. Wilson, wife of the pastor of the Methodist Church, was the first president; upon her husband's transfer to another parish at the end of a year, she was succeeded by Mrs. Minnie Henning. Through the years sixteen women have served the organization as president, three of these having served two terms each; the present incumbent, Miss Wilma Bess, is serving a second term.

For a number of years there were four departments — Art and Literature, Music and Drama, Home Economics, and Business and Professional Women. The meetings of the General Club were held in the Dominy Memorial Library on Tuesdays; after the first year the various departments usually met in the homes of members.

The proceeds from a concert by the Philharmonic Chorus of Bloomington, given in the Central Theatre, helped materially in getting the Club started financially; the next year a home talent play, "The Prince Chap," was presented by the Music and Drama Department; the following year, again at Central Theatre, three one-act plays, "Cherry Blossoms," "The Knave of Hearts" and "The Nymph" were presented.

Much of the success of the Club is due to the tireless efforts of the Ways and Means Committees who obtained substantial funds for the organization through varied projects.

For a number of years the Art and Literature Department annually sponsored an exhibit of art and art teas. Excellent copies of masterpieces were obtained on loan for a week from the State Library at Springfield and were hung in the Clubrooms. At another time the Stables Collection of Oils and Watercolors was procured from the Illinois State Normal University. The most comprehensive

collection was a large group of oils from The Hoosier Salon Patrons Association of Chicago; outstanding was the "Old New Orleans Mammy" by Wayman Adams. The last exhibit was a collection of block prints.

About 1928 the Club received numerous requests for the formation of a group interested in gardening. Accordingly, the following year a Department of Gardens became a part of the organization. This group has taken care of the planting and maintenance of the two oval flower beds in Central Park as well as the planting of flowers and the care of the beds on the Hospital grounds. For many successive years annual flower shows or Garden Teas were a part of each year's program and for the last twelve years a committee from the Department has been in charge of the exhibits in the Floriculture Department of the Fairbury Fair. More recently, annual trips to nearby points of interest, or garden tours, have been a feature of the programs.

In 1933 the General Club sponsored the organization of the Department of Juniors. This group of very capable young women between the ages of 18 to 35, with the aid of two members from the General Club who served in an advisory capacity, were a department of the Club until 1951 when they withdrew to form a new organization of their own, now functioning as the Junior Woman's Club of Fairbury. While a department of the Club they contributed very generously to the Fairbury Hospital as well as to various local welfare projects.

A brief summary of some of the activities of the General Club follows: Affiliated with General, State, District and County Federations; Contributed to Milk Fund for school children; Supervised play at Marsh Park; Contributed to support of community nurse for three years; Contributed $200.00 to State Endowment Fund; Maintained Rest Room at Fair; Maintained Tourist Park; Made plantings of 300 perennial shrubs in plot at West entrance to Fairbury; Contributed annually to local welfare funds; Contributed annually to IFWC welfare projects.

Throughout the years the Club has donated to the Library by means of tag day drives, fund drives, gifts, etc. approximately $1200. In 1951 the Ways and Means Committee netted $1694.21 from a drive for funds to repair flood damage to the basement of the Library. This entire sum was turned over to the Library Trustees. The Club has at various times donated sums of money or helped in projects for the Fairbury Hospital totaling approximately $850.00. Since 1952, about $338.00 has been donated to the Fairbury Girl Scouts.

The Fairbury Woman's Club has had many women who have given years of their time to the Club interests. A number have held offices also in the County, District and State Federations. Mrs. M. A. Anderson served one term each as local president, County president, District president and State treasurer until she was forced to resign the latter office on account of ill health. Great credit is due the many who cooperated so splendidly and served so selflessly.

C.L.S.C. Seeks Improvement Of Mind

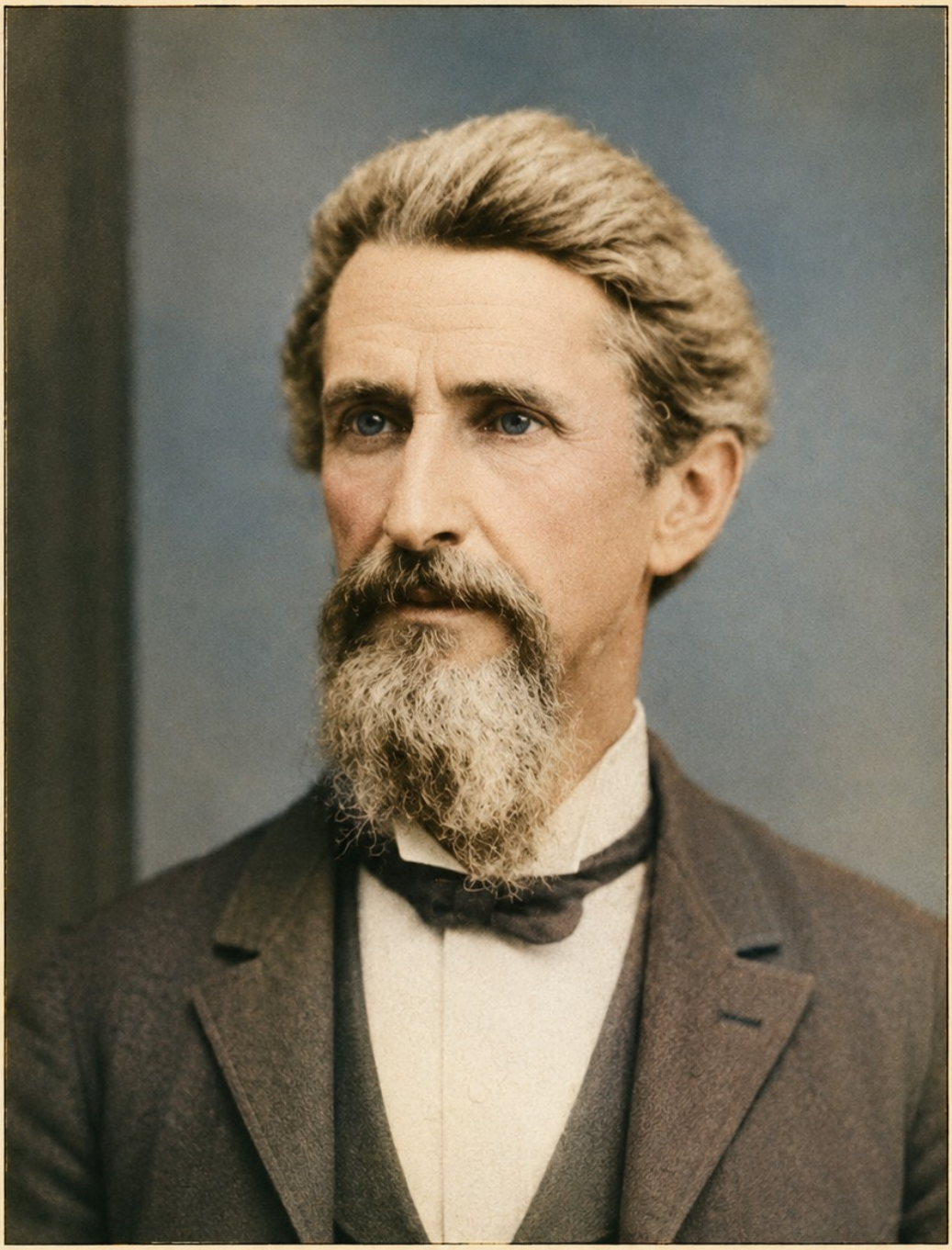
Sixty-two years ago, on November 16, 1895, a group of Fairbury ladies met to found a study club to be known as the Bay View Reading Circle. The purpose of the organization was expressed (and has since been carried out) in the preamble to the Constitution of C.L.S.C.: "Seeking knowledge and mental improvement, also, a high standard of social intercourse, in connection with the routine of daily life, and believing that we can accomplish more in our study and research, and at the same time, promote good fellowship by being banded together, we hereby form ourselves into a society."

The founders and first members were: Mrs. Melvin Anderson, Miss Rachel Armstrong, Mrs. Donn Brewer, Mrs. L. B. Dominy, Miss Gertrude Gregg, Miss Grace Patterson (a Fairbury teacher), Mrs. J. I. Pence, Mrs. E. D. Powell, Mrs. Presler, Mrs. J. A. Reckard, Mrs. B. F. Sharkland, Miss Grace Sharpe, Mrs. A. J. Sway, Mrs. G. O. Thayer, Mrs. J. W. Walton. The only charter member now living is Miss Rachel Armstrong of Fairbury.

When the first great mass project for adult education, known as the Chautauqua movement, captured this country, the club adopted the Chautauqua reading program, and a number of the members acquired diplomas for completing the courses. The Bay View Reading Circle then became the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle. (C.L.S.C.).

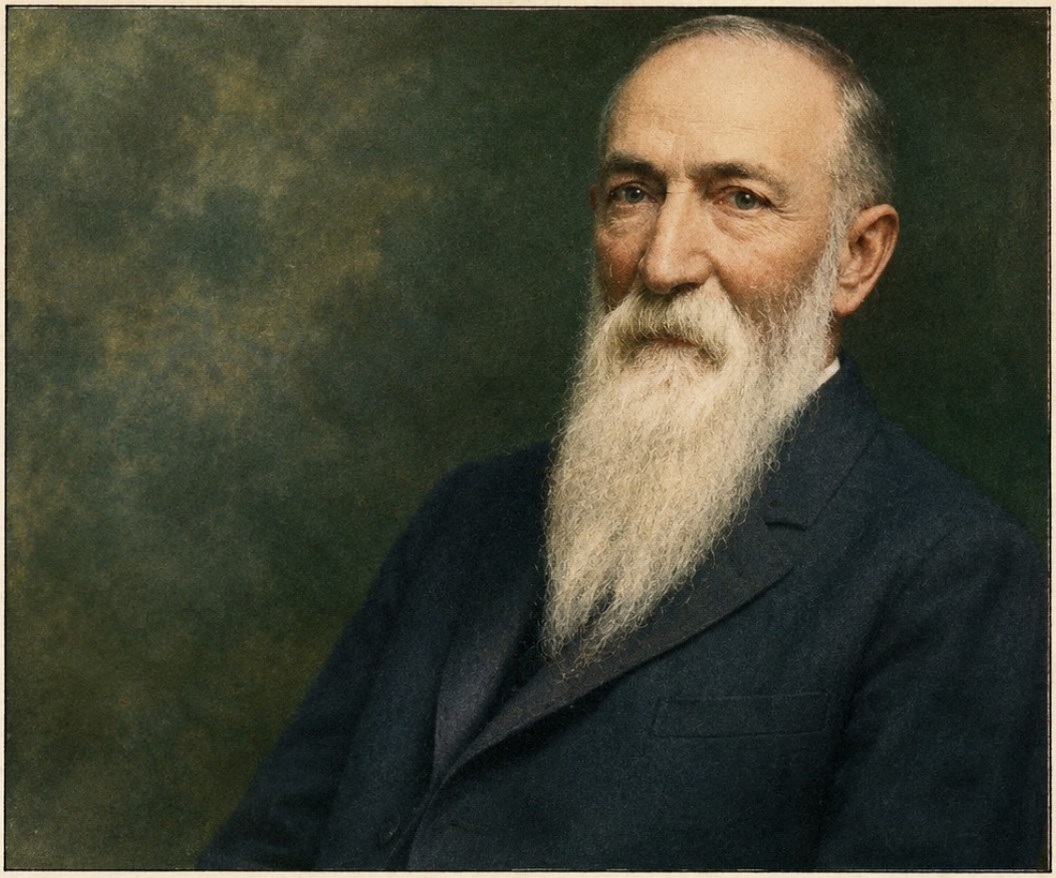
The present members are Mesdames Frances Bartlett, Marie Bedell, Kay Dickey, Ruth Elliott, Grace Gittinger, Bertha Gordon, Bernice Gregg, Cathrine Hamilton, Gertrude Henderson, Alma James, Dora Johnson, Lucille Jones, Nettie Karnes, Helen Scouler, Dolores Steidinger, Verle Voris, Nevah Wilson, Margaret Ziegenhorn and Miss Anna Weber.

Long coat, top hat and cane were trademark of Dr. Fraley, one of the community's early medical men.



Dr. Cicero Bartlett, one of Fairbury's early physicians, charged 50 cents a call, day or night.

Dr. G. C. Lewis set two firsts for Fairbury medical men. He had the first real telephone in town and was the first local doctor to drive a car.



Dr. Brewer came to Fairbury in 1876, advertising himself as a Homeopathic physician. He later added that he also pulled teeth, and finally announced himself a specialist in women's diseases. Kind, but firm, with his patients, Dr. Brewer was active in practice here over 60 years. He died in 1913 at the age of 90 — not the victim of old age but of a fall in which he suffered a fractured hip.

The Home Domestic Science club | at Vera Payne's which was held— is shown during a quilting party | well, a number of years ago.

Methodist church Ladies society of 1912 included, standing, back row: Mrs. Lin McKee, Mrs. Henry Payne, Mrs. Launther, Mrs. F. McDowell, Mrs. Cassie Veach, Mrs. Lillie Churchill, Mrs. Henry Foster, Mrs. Melvin Anderson, Mrs. Dr. Brewer, Mrs. Lura Westervelt, Mrs. Marshall Gorden, Mrs. Frank Combs, Mrs. Tom Payne, Mrs. D. D. Freeman, Mary Kelley.

Middle row: Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Mitten, Mrs. M. E. Mitchell, Mrs. George Day, Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Charles Crow, Mrs. Emma Barlette, Mrs. Bane, Mrs. G. Y. McDowell, Mrs. Charles Patmore, Mrs. Foreman, Mrs. Fuller, Mrs. Philhour.

Front row: Mrs. Meeker, Mrs. Walton, Mrs. Dexter, Mrs. Deputy, Mrs. Shearer, Mrs. William Henning, Mrs. Burus, Mrs. Hattie Swarm, Mrs. Haner, Mrs. Dr. Presler.

Group teaching in Fairbury schools around 1890 were were, left to around 1890 ᴡᴇᴇɴ, Lonia , Arlo Weber, — — Robison right, back row, Elizabeth Dominy, Arlo Weber, — — Robison, and miny, Will Rex and Jessie Dominy. Anna Rex. Seated in front are unidentified, unidentified, Jennie Do-

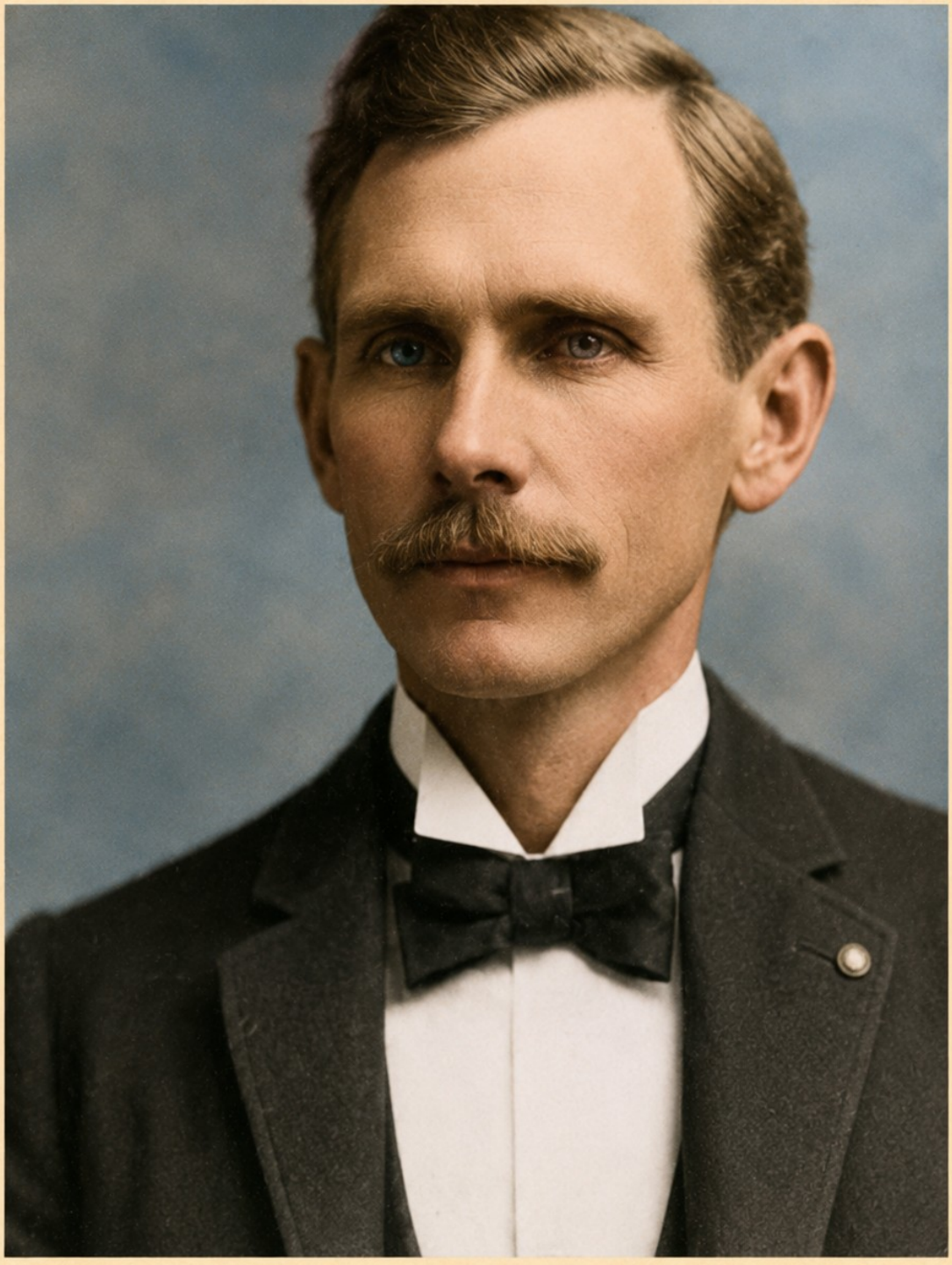
Making New Years calls to friends was once a custom observed by many in the Fairbury community. These four young men were one group which faithfully observed the custom. They are, left to right, Lou Renfer, G. Y. McDowell, Dick Pearson and Harry Bartlett. The picture was taken in 1890.

This is Sunken Park as it looked 67 years ago, in 1891. The picture was taken looking west from the Farmers Grain company elevator. Corn cribs, and farther west, Von Tobel's lumber yard in what is now Central Park, took all of the space.

This birdseye view of Fairbury's erection of The Blade building, the top of which is visible at left with the main street was probably taken not too many years following the date of its erection — 1887 — just barely showing.

Gibson Brownson, at left, and harnessmaker stand on board sidewalk in front of Mapel Bros. Store about 1890. Building now houses the Zimmerman hardware.

City Council in Fairbury's centennial year are shown above. Standing, left to right, are Dewey DeMoss, Dr. E. M. Gerdes, John Johansen, Herbert Rathbun. Seated are city clerk L. B. Decker, Mayor Roy Taylor, Walter Mehrings and Harvey Day. Rathbun retired soon after picture was taken, after serving as alderman for 16 years. Blade photo.



N. E. Fulton

Machinery for the Blade printing plant was once located on the second floor of its present building. This shot, taken about 1914, shows the editor and publisher, G. A. Sutton, third from left, and J. A. Patterson, who was associated with the firm for a half-century, first as printer's devil and later as editor and partner, is at far right.

20th Century Club of a few years ago posed for this picture during a "kid" party. They are, left to right, front row, Mildred McCormick, unknown, Maude Monroe Carter, Kate Sutton Huntoon. Second row, Gladys Moss Thompson, Elizabeth Phelps Engle, Carrie Householder, Tillie Nussbaum Milne, Leota Butler, Mrs. H. C. Venable, Ann Drennen, Edith Monroe Decker. Back row, Irma Waggoner, Neva Decker, Alice Remington Heckman, Minnie Nussbaum, Mae Milne Mc Mahon, Mary Addis, Esther Householder Gooding and Warthe And Martha Morris.

Latest of Fairbury's many great fires was the one which destroyed the Central Theatre on June 26, 1952. The building was built during the winter and spring of 1903-04 as the Central Opera House, replacing the old opera house, which, a bit ironically, now houses the Loyal Order of Moose.

For many years, the Central was visited by many outstanding attractions of the legitimate stage, many of them bringing a train carload of scenery with them. To this time, no building has been constructed on the site.

Fairbury mail carriers about 1905 or 1906 were these six stalwart young men. They are left to right standing, B. Smith, Charles Bradley, M. E. Mitchell, Breezy Mowry and Newt Simmons. Sitting is Bud Codlin.

The Magazine Study club, shown one day in 1915 as it met at the home of Nelle Nimmo. Left to right they are Ada Kerr, Ada Mae Kerr, Mrs. Huette, Elizabeth Smith Patty Smith, Blanche Dawson, Mrs. Hutchins, Nannie Johnson, Mrs, Roth, Mrs. Sam Adair, Carrie Best, Mrs. Voris, Mrs. Addis, Mary Nimmo, Mrs. Sauer, Mrs. Fultz, Mrs. Charles, Addis, and Mary Elizabeth Adair.

Magazine Study Club Had Start In 1909

One evening in October 1909 three teachers decided to meet once a week to read some good literature and discuss current events. One by one others joined with us until in 1912 there were six regular readers and several who came part of the time.

At the first meeting in October 1912, it was decided to form an organization and a committee of two was appointed to write a constitution and bylaws. At the next meeting the results were presented and accepted. This was signed by ten members during the year. At first this group was called The Magazine Club but in January 1914 the name was changed to the Magazine Study Club, by which name it is still

known. In 1921 the constitution and bylaws were revised and have not been changed since.

One member of the original reading circle, Nell B. Nimmo, is still an active member and three of the signers of the original constitution are still members, Mary Addis and Nell Nimmo as active members, and Ada Kerr, active until this fall, has become a social member.

This October makes forty-eight years since the forming of the reading circle and forty-five years since the organization of the Magazine Study Club as of today. We now have fourteen active members, six social members and twelve deceased members listed on our program. Many others have been associated with us for a time but for various reasons have had to drop out. This year's officers are: President, Vera Payne; vice president, Etta Carter; secretary-treasurer, Abbie Hibsch.

Besides our regular meeting with a program, once a year, usually during the Christmas season, we have a dinner party and during the season make a gift of food or reading material to the Fairbury Hospital. During the years we have sent out some Christmas baskets to the unfortunate and frequently donated a book to the Dominy Memorial Library in memory of a deceased member.

Home Bureau Has High Principals

Home Bureau was organized during the Theodore Roosevelt administration and federal aid was made available through the Smith-Lever and the Capper-Ketcham acts of 1914, to help pay county advisers salaries. The agencies financing Home Bureau are the U.S. department of agriculture, the state, the county and dues from the units.

It is a professional organization for Home Makers and a part of the educational system. The purpose of the unit meetings are for better family living. Home Bureau is the oldest organization to reach over the world and we are told that women in other countries have been known to go 19 miles on skis to attend a Home Bureau Meeting.

Its aim as written by the late Juliet Lita Bane, of the staff of specialists of the University of Illinois, is to have "every home economically sound, mechanically convenient, morally wholesome, mentally stimulating, artistically satisfying, physically healthful, socially responsible, and spiritually inspiring, founded upon mutual affection and respect."

Illinois Home Bureau is composed of state extension directors and staff members; Illinois Home Bureau federation officers; a county Home Economics staff and a county board consisting of five officers and a director from each unit.

Livingston county has 27 units. Each unit has its own staff of officers who work with the county board. Once a year the units meet with county officers for the annual meeting in Pontiac and a new county board is elected and officers installed. Each year the County sponsors a Hobby Show to help raise additional funds for county expenses, each unit having exhibits. Each county has its Home Bureau adviser. The work has grown so much that Livingston county has had an assistant adviser for several years.

Miss Florence Swan was the first county adviser for four years; then came Miss Anna Searl in 1922 until 1936 with one year's leave of absence to study in New York for her master's degree. Her substitute was Miss Deborah Solliday.

After Miss Searl resigned, having been in the county for 14 years, Miss Jessie Campbell was engaged as adviser and stayed 15 years with one year out to study adult education abroad and to attend the conference of Country Women of the World held in London.

When she resigned in 1951 Miss Arlene Wolfram came for four years and resigned to work in state 4-H through the U. of I.

Mrs. Grace Wepner is the present county adviser since February 1957.

The Fairbury unit of County Home Bureau was organized in May 1931 at the home of Mrs. Lillie Herndon, 203 North Seventh St., with 29 members. Mrs. Louis M. Hoffman was the first president.

However, this was not the beginning and Home Bureau was not new for some of these members. Avoca unit of 19 members had been organized in May 1918 at the home of Mrs. J. C. Mies northwest of town.

and some of these women had been charter members. Those were the days of mud roads and when they froze it was rough roads. Few had cars and couldn't use them often in winter and spring. Attendance at the monthly meetings was usually good. Those who could drive a team of horses (or mules) to a klondike carriage or buggy picked up others along the way. Husbands were asked to come in at 11 a.m. for dinner on Home Bureau days so the women could get to meetings on time. Besides the interest shown in the programs, they had fun. Family parties, picnics, wedding and birthday anniversary surprise parties, showers for the sick, or members who had other troubles, ice cream suppers and oyster suppers in the homes.

Bake sales were held in Walton's store, long before the present store building was erected, to help finance the unit which sponsored a French orphan during World War I. His name, Andre Beaufils, and Mrs. Herndon has two pictures of him and some of his letters. Indian Grove also had a Home Bureau unit at this time and Avoca and Indian Grove members often met together at the Alpha Omega hall, above the present Locker plant; the library or the Presbyterian church for dinner meetings to make it easier for the county adviser, also specialists coming to give lectures.

Fairbury had passenger trains in those days.

The Indian Grove unit disbanded and in 1927 the Avoca unit did likewise. By 1930 some of the women of both townships had begun to long for a Home Bureau organization and began to work on it. With the help of Miss Searl the Fairbury unit was organized as above stated.

In September that year Fairbury joined other county units in sending 902 jars of home canned foods to Aurora for the International Canning contest. The prizes of $25 had been offered and while Fairbury did not win it did place fourth and two members received small checks, Mrs. L. M. Hoffman on her glass of mint jelly and Mrs. Lillie Herndon on her five jars of food for a balanced meal. After the contest all food was distributed among hospitals and other institutions.

In July 1932 the unit held an achievement program at the upstairs Legion rooms, the first of its kind to be held in the county. There were many worth while exhibits showing the work of the past year followed by an educational program and refreshments for the many guests.

The third achievement program was held in connection with the girls 4-H club sponsored by the unit.

During the program a parade of wedding gowns was featured, the oldest being of the year 1900 and the newest of 1932 and all the years between.

Fairbury unit sponsors a 4-H girls club with a Home Bureau member as 4-H chairman. There were 36 members the past season and 31 of them had exhibits at fairs including the 4-H fair, state fair and Fairbury fair. Fairbury led the county for eight years in succession in the amount of publicity given Home Bureau through the press. Mrs. Lillie Herndon has been publicity chairman for more years than she cares to tell.

The unit was the first to sponsor the polio drive in Fairbury and community. It was the first to promote the mobile chest X-ray unit and was assisted by red cross workers in the house to house canvass to interest people in taking advantage of it. Members assist every year when the Mobile unit comes to Fairbury. The Fairbury Home Bureau now has 36 members. In previous years the enrollment has reached 53.

Six of the members are active charter members, namely, Mrs. Irene Gerber, Mrs. William Yoder, Mrs. Louis M. Hoffman, Mrs. John Mies, Mrs. Ida Goold and Mrs. Lillie Herndon. Mesdames Mies, Goold and Herndon are the only county charter members in Fairbury unit, they having joined in 1918. All three have served on the county board and most all offices in the unit. At present Mrs. Mies' daughter-in-law, Mrs. Leslie Mies, is unit director and county treasurer; Mrs. Herndon is secretary and Mrs. Goold is treasurer of the unit. Other Fairbury officers are Mrs. Ervin Zeh, president; Mrs. William Frisby, vice president and membership chairman; Mrs. James Goold, 4-H chairman and Mrs. J. A. Gibb, recreation chairman.

20th Century Club Formed By Mrs. Venable

The 20th Century Club was organized by Mrs. H. C. Venable, formerly of Fairbury, now living in Chicago. In the years she has been living in Chicago, the club has kept in touch with her so we wrote her to give us some of our early facts.

She writes it was organized in connection with a class of young women which she was interested in, in the Fairbury Presbyterian Sunday School in 1912.

It was the outgrowth of a desire of the group to engage in some practical and useful Christian Service to the community and elsewhere.

We contributed to the Annual church budget, to the Chicago Industrial League under Mr. Kilbey's superintendency and assisted needy families in the community.

As time went on we contributed to Pinney Woods School, China Relief, Dubuque Seminary, National Missions, Doris Ashley Fund, Madison, Ills., Foreign Missions of New York thru Mr. Graham, McKinley Foundation, Red Cross. We also made garments for children thru the Red Cross.

Helped in giving donations to the church to buy robes for the choir. Our birthday bank money was given to help buy music for the choir.

One Sunday in March each year, we furnish flowers to be placed in the chancel for our deceased

members.

We made and gave dresser scarfs, scrapbooks and waste paper baskets to our hospital.

Last year we contributed to the W.L.S. Christmas Fund.

Our ways of raising money was by having Rummage Sales, Father and Son Banquets and Vanishing Teas.

The first Rummage sale was held in the hotel annex, which now is Honeggers.

We meet the second Monday of each month, the hostess for that month serving as President and the Secty.-Treas. is Kathryn Reany.

Notes From Belle Prairie Home Bureau

The Livingston County Home Bureau welcomes another new unit into their membership to be known as "Belle Prairie", and while the unit takes the name, part of the membership lives in Indian Grove Township.

Monday this large group of women met at the home of Mrs. Oscar Vail to listen to an explanation of the organization by the county membership chairman, Mrs. H. J. Meis. Following this the election of officers took place with the following results: President, Mrs. Cletis Payne; Vice president, Mrs. Remus Pickering; secretary, Mrs. Ernest Hoffman; treasurer, Mrs. Theodore Orth; press reporter, Mrs. Virgil Mundell. The records show 31 charter members with others expected to join soon. The charter members are as follows: Mesdames Phil Thompson, Oscar Vail, W. D. Payne, Remus Pickering, Frank Fouts, Virgil Mundell, H. H. Hays, Joe Goins, Raymond Deputy, Clair Barnes, Ralph Thoms, Will Irwin, W. D. Spence, Will Barnes, Will Hoover, Theodore Orth, George Barnes, Martin Barnes, Ernest Hoffman, Hubert Miller, Marshall Fitzgerald, Frank Hall, Harold Hall, Wilbert Hildreth, Harry Newnam, Fred Elliott, Charles Elliott, Glen Abbey, John Winchester, Ellis Westervelt, Harley Boles.

The unit has chosen the first Tuesday of the month as their regular meeting day.

The county home adviser, Miss Anna Searl, was present and gave the regular scheduled lesson for October, namely: "Objectives in Home Management". The work in music appreciation was also given.

Much interest and enthusiasm was shown during the entire afternoon, giving promise of one of the most active units in the county.

The Belle Prairie Home Bureau held its first family night party on February 29, 1929 at the Woodman Hall in Fairbury. It was a decided success considering the very cold weather and quite a few people were sick. Seventy-five persons enjoyed a pot luck supper and everyone helped to make it a happy party.

On the first birthday of the Belle Prairie Home Bureau held on October 1, 1929 there were 38 of the 42 members present. Thirty-nine dozen cookies were packed and sent to the veterans' hospital at Dwight.

Besides our Extension Service lessons by the home advisor and minor lessons given by unit members, we have taken a Red Cross Health Course taught by Miss Lucille Leech and a Red Cross nutrition

course by Miss Jessie Campbell.

Mrs. Remus Pickering was the first county recreation chairman.

We entered the national canning contest in which Livingston County placed first.

We have sent crates of eggs to the Baby Fold at Normal and have also sponsored, and still do sponsor, a 4-H girls' club.

Of the 31 charter members we still have eight, namely: Mesdames W. C. Payne, Phil Thompson, Wilbert Hildreth, W. D. Spence, Harry Newnam, and Oscar Vail. Our present membership is 40.

Livingston County Home Bureau aim: To Have every home: Economically Sound, Mechanically Convenient, Morally Wholesome, Mentally Stimulating, Artistically Satisfying, Physically Healthful, Socially Responsible, Spiritually Inspiring, founded upon mutual affection and respect.

We have enjoyed working with our advisors in our 29 years. We have had lots of good times at our regular meetings, our family night parties, our tours to Chicago, serving lunches at sales, serving suppers, etc.

We hope to continue to be considered one of the most active units in Livingston County.

Gamma Delta Sorority Active Over 50 Years

by Mrs. Maude Schnetzler

Gamma Delta Tau Sorority has been active for over fifty years.

It began in 1906 when the six girls of the senior class of the Fairbury high school decided to organize a Sorority. It is a local club and not connected with the school.

The six original members were Greeta Shover Stewart, Susie Williams, Rosamond James McCusky, Emma Schnetzler Shearer, Gertrude Foster Braun, and Maude Decker Schnetzler. Susie Williams and Gertrude Braun have passed away.

The club has always been purely social, but our services have been freely given when needed.

We meet twice a month, except in the summer, and serve dinners, either in our homes or the local cafes. Then we have a social evening in our homes.

In our early days we made "fancy work" while conversing on all sorts of topics. In later years when "the lights were not as bright as they used to be" and our families and friends seemed to have enough fancy work we took up canasta and bridge, not making serious play out of it, but mixing it with conversation to spend a pleasant evening together.

One of the highlights of our early years was a house party held at the Mrs. W. R. Bane farm three miles west of Fairbury. We loaded on a hayrack bedding, cots, chairs, tables, dishes, kerosene lamps, gasoline

stove and hammocks to set up housekeeping for two weeks. While we were there, along with other kinds of entertainment, we had a dance on the lawn, using a large canvas for a floor and Bane's phonograph for music.

Also in the early days of the club the annual dance was one of our big events for a number of years. It was held in Eddy's Hall. One year the large, bare hall was transformed into a beautiful Oriental garden. We used hundreds of bare branches with bits of cotton attached to resemble cherry blossoms, and we made hundreds of chrysanthemums. Of course Burche Orchestra furnished the music.

During our early years we always initiated our new members in true sorority style. Some are still grumbling about the stunts they had to do such as, being blindfolded and eating "worms" made by soaking spaghetti in water till it was soft; clasping the cold clammy kid glove stuffed with wet oatmeal, a very gruesome thing; climbing up a ladder, also blindfolded, to the top of the porch where the initiation was to be held, and entering the house through a window; painting our greek letters on their epidermis with gold varnish. One girl cried when we painted her sister, because she thought she would be ruined forever.

Our membership has usually been about 16 active members. The inactive ones are now scattered from New York to California. Once a member, they are always welcome to become active again, any time that they wish. Our active members at the present time are Esther Gooding, Sue Lange, Lois Leonard, Lura Wade, Tillie Milne, Minnie Nussbaum, Esther Hanson, Frances Lindsay, Edyth Kessler, and Maude Schnetzler.

It has been fifty years of pleasant associations and lasting friendships.

Shakespeare Studied Here

With the turn of the Century a small group of women came together regularly to read and to study the words of Shakespeare hence, the name Shakespeare club.

There is no authentic record of the names of those women who organized the club, but it is known that Emma Mitten and her sister, Sarah Bennett, Ella Beach Lewis, Lottie Brewer and her sister Emma Rogers, Sarah Crowe, Eva Agard Burns, and Mrs. Joseph Shearer were among the original group.

These pioneers of the club kept no minutes of their meetings, no record of their programs and no recorded names of their charter members.

In 1908-9 the first year book was printed. It was a pretentious 3 x 6 inch book with a page given to each meeting and program with its three or four topics respectively. A green monogrammed cover was its crowning glory. It boasted the letters T. S. C. interwoven artistically by J. Hawk, manual training artist of the Fairbury schools.

The club owned its own plate for engraving so that the book-cover would be uniform in size and shape.

The color was altered from green to pink, the club's colors; the flower was the carnation.

Printed year books have been continuous with the exception of First World War years and a periodic sense of economy.

The courses of study began with works of great authors. The programs have varied from history, biography, poetry, prose, science, the arts, civic problems, and the study of the Bible.

There have always been social meetings which at one time included husbands at a guest night. Elaborate decorations, costumes, festivals, mock weddings, dinners, teas, and fancy affairs caused much scrambling in the attic by the members of the early club.

When movies came into their area, they were utilized as a means of entertaining guests.

A memory book has been kept of all the social afternoons and evenings of the club.

Houseplay sometimes entered upon the scene. On one occasion, guests met at the new R. R. station house only to find that the member who had the train tickets arrived shortly after the train pulled out. The member ran up, short of breath and apologetic. The tickets, of course, were for the high class matinee at the Opera House.

For some time, the club took on the appearance of a family group. Mothers, daughters, and sisters have held membership. Marriages and deaths have occurred in the club.

The first born in the family of a member received the proverbial silver spoon, the Shakespeare spoon.

Although organized for self improvement, civic interests were developed in the latter part of the second decade of the club's existence. The C.L.S.C., the Culliene Club, the Eusodelphians, and the Art club joined the Shakespeare club in a so-called Civic Federation, each taking yearly turns at entertaining the other clubs of the group. As a result, the Fairbury Woman's club was organized in 1923. Shakespeare's own Mrs. D. F. Wilson was the first president.

Other civic projects have held their own, such as, mending for the local hospital, books for the library, and in some years, food for the needy.

The Shakespeare Club of today has maintained its varied programs but in a lighter vein. The elaborate program book has yielded to the folder. Its members give their time and talent to many worthwhile projects and activities of the community as well as to Shakespeare club.

This article was taken in most part from one originally written by the late Mrs. M. A. Anderson for the Club's golden anniversary.

Optimist Sunday School Class Formed In 1913

Eleven young women who were attending Sunday School decided to organize and chose this name for themselves, The Optimist Class. They were under the leadership of Mrs. Grace Thompson, a very able teacher.

The National Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church at that time issued a certificate to The Optimist Class on November twenty-sixth, 1913, which is framed and hangs on the wall in their class room at this time.

On this document are the names of the members of the class, the teacher, superintendent and officers of the National Board.

They elected officers and planned that one evening each month they would meet for a program and social time. They became very active in the work of the church. Four of this number still reside in Fairbury.

As time passed the number increased and there are now thirty-three members. They still attend Sunday School and have their monthly meetings.

The Mother and Daughter banquet was given by the Optimists for many years. At Christmas time for the last fifteen or eighteen years they deliver a box of home-made candy and cookies to those of the church who are not able to attend services or take an active part in church work.

Another kind deed is the giving of fifty cents to each child in a children's home to spend however the child wishes. Last year sixteen dollars and fifty cents was given to a Missionary community center to buy books.

They contribute fifty dollars to the church budget and twelve dollars to World Service.

When sickness or sorrow comes to the home of a member, they are there to sympathize and serve.

Optimists? What are they doing? Trying to see the best in everything.

Fairbury VFW Post Chartered In 1936

The charter for Fairbury Post 2450, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, was obtained by fifteen ex-service men, eighteen years after the armistice of 1918, at a time when the community, the nation and the civilized world were slowly and erratically crawling out of the mire of the most colossal economic depression ever experienced by any of their contemporaries.

During the years immediately after receiving their charter, a small group of members having great sympathy for the underdog, performed notable service in a modest but direct manner, by alleviating the economic and spiritual distress of their fellow veterans. They were the J.C.s of that day, though more subjective, and lacking the grandiose schemes and fanfare so rife during a period of easy credit.

After cessation of hostilities in 1945, the returning young veterans were solicited and encouraged to carry on. In an effort to escape the confusion of their recent liberation which gave each man the freedom to fight his own battles under a baffling number of laws and regulations, a number of these bewildered, unemployed and unsettled new veterans initiated a campaign which, at its height, resulted in a membership of approximately ten times the minimum charter requirement. That new generation remodeled and redecorated a rented hall and indulged in considerable mutual social entertainment.

As more and more of the young veterans managed to find employment promising personal gain commensurate to the diligence with which skill is applied, while concurrently the specter of a common deterrent had lost its personification and was losing its commonness, comradeship based on widely different, and sometimes disgusting war experiences proved insufficient to hold the interest of the maturing veterans.

Less than ten years after termination of open warfare with the Axis powers, V.F.W. Post 2450, abandoned its regular meetings along with its meeting hall.

Today the local post holds its charter by virtue only of payment of per capita tax to department and national headquarters by a sufficient number of members who feel that their contributions to those headquarters will in some way benefit all veterans in need of assistance.

Early Paper Recalls Early History of Baptist Church

(Partly based on a paper, "Fifty Years of Retrospect," written by Mrs. Carrie K. Eckhart, and read at the Jubilee service thirty years ago). Reprinted from "The Fairbury Blade".

During the ministry of Rev. E. L. Kelly, 1902-04, the church was remodeled and enlarged to its present capacity. And during the pastorate of Rev. J. W. Baily, who followed him, the last of the church building debt was lifted.

The Rev. C. S. Burns followed Baily and his ministry was marked by the glorious celebration of the 50th anniversary. On December 11, 1910, the church called the Rev. C. D. Rasp to its pulpit and he served till December 27, 1914. He was ordained to the ministry in February, 1911. During this period the Honeywell Union Tabernacle revival was sponsored by the churches of Fairbury and the grand piano used in our sanctuary was purchased for the church. During the interval between the leaving of Rev. Rasp and the coming of a new pastor the Baptist church and the Christian church held a joint meeting to consider uniting, but the proposition failed.

On January 31, 1915, the church called the Rev. E. H. Lyle to the field and he served till October 17, 1917. A new church constitution was adopted at this time. The church membership in 1914 was reported at 293.

No pastor was secured then until June 1, 1918, at which time the Rev. L. W. Ames moved to the field in answer to a call. Being in ill health he was only able to serve the church for a short period and that rather irregularly, but during his ministry a debt that the church had incurred was cleared away.

June 21, 1919, the Rev. E. C. Shute, of Chatsworth, accepted a call to be our pastor. The church here entered upon a period in which "The New World Movement" was the issue of a controversy. Rev. Shute preached his farewell sermon April 30, 1922.

After some difficulties in selecting a new pastor, Rev. J. E. Howard was called December 23, 1922, and served till November 29, 1924. During this time Benjamin Barnes, Mrs. Elizabeth Morris and John Farley were among the older and most reliable members who answered the call to be with the Lord on High. Kenneth Tyler and Rose Williams were baptized into our fellowship under Mr. Howard's ministry.

The Rev. R. G. Stacey was called December 14, 1924, and served acceptably till November 2, 1927. The Rev. J. S. Shorney was called December 11 of that year and served the church seven years. The tragic death of Frank Sawyer in 1933 took a faithful worker to be with our Lord. Mr. Shorney patiently served the church during the worst of the financial depression.

In January, 1934, Mr. and Mrs. Evan Roberts were called to the church. Then followed three years of patient upbuilding of a church that had sagged badly during the financial and spiritual depression of 1930-35. October 6, 1936, Rev. Roberts resigned from the church and on December 5 the Rev. R. J. Wells was called.

Mr. Wells' stay with the church was just nine months, but during that time a great difficulty developed. Mr. Wells' charge of "modernism" in the Northern Baptist convention caused the church under his leadership to sever its connection with the same and to unite with the "General Association of Regular Baptists, North." After his pastorate was terminated September 19, 1937, the church rejoined the Northern Baptist convention and the Bloomington association with the result that a group of 39 members withdrew under the leadership of Mr. Wells and formed another Baptist church in Fairbury.

The First Baptist church called its present pastor, Rev. N. L. Godbey, December 12, 1937.

Starting with the first full-time pastor the church has been served by the following men: Reverends B. F. Scrivens, W. C. F. Hempstead, J. Carnes, J. Jones, A. Gross, J. C. Read, I. S. Mahan, E. Pierce, C. D. Merit, A. Robbins, S. A. Perrine, J. J. Crosby, J. W. Neyman, J. Coker, W. L. Riley, H. H. Hurley, F. F. Whitcomb, James Ryan, E. L. Kelly, J. W. Bailey, C. S. Burns, C. D. Rasp, E. H. Lyle, L. W. Ames, E. C. Shute, J. E. Howard, R. G. Stacey, J. S. Shorney, Evan Roberts, R. J. Wells and N. L. Godbey.

The First Baptist Church
by Mrs. Marshall Fitzgerald and Rev. Wm. L. Brown

The First Baptist Church called Rev. N. L. Godbey who became their pastor December 12, 1937 and served as pastor till May 18, 1941. September 1939 was a busy and eventful month for the Baptists. Our church entertained the Bloomington Baptist Association at their 102nd Session and on September 26th Miss Eloice Goode and Rev. N. L. Godbey were united in marriage at Jackson Heights Methodist church, near Romney, Ind.

The church was without a pastor for six months, then on Nov. 16th, 1941 Rev. Milan K. Thompson accepted the call extended him and with his family moved on. During Rev. Thompson's pastorate the B.Y.P.U. bought carpet for the church, the interior of the church was decorated, repairs and improvements on the parsonage were made and the old bell buried in the ground and used for a flower bed was dug up and given to the scrap drive. In Nov. 1942 the American Legion assisted in dedicating the Christian, American and Service flags and the Honor Roll gifts of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Keith. Rev. M. K. Thompson resigned April 4, 1944.

Rev. Orlin Njus followed Rev. Thompson as pastor, moving here September 4, 1944. The Njus Society was organized and one of their first projects was starting what was called "The Organ Fund". After many months of work the order for the organ was made on Jan. 21, 1948. On June 7th, 1948 ordination services were held for Rev. Orlin L. Njus. Rev. Njus closed his pastorate in the fall of 1950. In July 1951 Rev. Kenneth Klein took up his duties as pastor of First Baptist. During 1952 the trustees directed extensive remodeling work in the basement. The Amoma class and Maranatha class purchased tables and the Sunday school purchased chairs for the new basement. Rev. Klein presented his resignation May 17, the same to take effect May 31, 1953.

On August 12, 1953 the church voted to extend a call to Rev. Donald L. Vaupel to the pastorate of the church. Rev. Vaupel accepted the call and with his family moved to Fairbury in September 1953. Rev.

Vaupel's first step was in getting a Sr. B.Y.F. started. Our church cooperated with the other churches in planning for and completing a religious census of Fairbury and the rural community.

There were also other projects carried out, the garage at the parsonage was moved, and an oil furnace installed in the parsonage, the beginning of remodeling of the church kitchen.

On Sept. 26th, 1954 a very impressive service was held at the morning service when special honors were given four of our members who had been members of 1st Baptist Church for 60 years. They were presented with honor certificates and corsages for the ladies. These members were: Mrs. Fern Thompson, Mrs. Hattie Goslin, Miss Mildred Sype and Mr. O. D. Hanna.

Also in October the entire front of the auditorium was remodeled and the new pulpit and choir furniture was installed. This was all done with memorial gifts.

During the summer of 1955 the church had it's "face lifted". The building was tuck-pointed, windows releaded and trim painted. In September we were host to the Bloomington Baptist Association with 250 guests. In December Rev. Vaupel resigned.

Rev. Wm. Brown was extended a call in Jan. 1956 and with Mrs. Brown and sons Charles, Gordon and Donald moved to Fairbury in February. On March 20th an installation was held for Rev. Brown with several ministers of the Bloomington Association taking part and Rev. John Foss pastor of the Presbyterian church and president of the Fairbury Ministerial Association giving the "welcome".

In April 1956 the grounds were landscaped this also was done with memorial gifts.

During the last few years Mother-Daughter banquets have been very much enjoyed, the men doing the complete job of cooking and serving. Our all church Christmas parties have proved very satisfactory.

The church kitchen was completely remodeled and the church insulated.

Our largest project at present is our centennial which we will celebrate in the fall of 1958. The general committee is already making plans.

PASTORS

B. F. Scrivens — 1860
W. C. F. Hempstead — 1864
James Carnes — 1865
J. Jones — 1870
A. Gross — 1871
J. C. Reed — 1873
J. S. Mahan — 1875
E. R. Pierce — 1875
C. D. Merit — 1876
A. Robins — 1884
S. A. Perrine — 1885
J. J. Crosby — 1889
J. W. Neyman — 1890
J. Coker — 1892

W. G. Riley — 1897
H. H. Hurley — 1898
F. F. Whitcomb — 1900
J. G. Ryan — 1902
E. G. Kelly — 1902
J. W. Bailey — 1904
C. S. Burns — 1907
C. D. Rasp — 1910
E. H. Lyle — 1915
Lee W. Ames — 1918
E. C. Shute — 1919
J. E. Howard — 1922
Rev. Stacy — 1924
J. Shorney — 1927
Evan Roberts — 1933
Rev. Wells — 1936
N. L. Godbey — 1937
N. K. Thompson — 1941
Orlin Njus — 1944
Kenneth Klein — 1951
D. L. Vaupel — 1953
Wm. Brown — 1956

Old Story Recalls Formation Of Tarbolton Lodge

From Blade of Oct. 6, 1910

The Fifty Year Mark Passed with Appropriate Ceremonies. Historical Reading of the Institution and Growth of the Order by Mayor Rayburn. An Excellent Program and Fine Banquet.

Tarbolton Lodge, No. 351, A.F. & A.M., was fifty years old Monday, October 3, 1910, and the celebration of that auspicious occasion was held at the Masonic hall last evening. The lodge rooms were just out of the decorators hands and presented a beautiful appearance to the large assemblage of Masons gathered there. There were some disappointments on the program. Deputy Grand Master D. D. Darrah, who was to have been the principal speaker of the evening, was unable to be present. John Zimmerman, who was also on the program, being one of the oldest members of the lodge, was kept away by sickness.

Robert Rumbold, of Chatsworth, the only living charter member of Tarbolton Lodge, was present. Mr. Rumbold has been a Mason for 56 years. He was made a member of Cedar lodge of Morris in 1854, withdrawing his membership there in 1860 to help organize Tarbolton lodge. There were about 125 Masons present, members of the order being in attendance from Pontiac, Chenoa, Weston, Gibson City, Saunemin, Forrest, Chatsworth and other points.

Worshipful Master Lewis S. Henderson called the lodge to order and after a short speech of welcome called Past W. M. Dr. J. R. Rayburn to the chair. The chairs were then filled with the following past masters of Tarbolton lodge: A. H. Birch, S. W.; John Conerus, J. W.; J. F. Goudy, S. D.; Fred Wright, J.

D.; C. F. H. Carrithers, Treas.; H. W. Pence, Sec.

An excellent program had been prepared by the committee in charge and was given as follows:

Lodge History—Dr. J. R. Rayburn
Song—Rock of Ages, John Wink, Fred Bethard, Logan Kring, James Patterson, Dr. H. B. Bull.
Speech—C. F. H. Carrithers
Duet—God is Wisdom—C. W. Neitz, John Wink.
Reminiscences—Old members of the order.
Song—Send Out Thy Light—Quintette.
Speeches by Worshipful Masters and Visiting brethren.
Song—God Be With You Till We Meet Again—Quintette and members

One of the most pleasant features of the evening was the presentation to Robert Rumbold of a beautiful gold headed cane by the members, Judge C. F. H. Carrithers making the presentation speech. Mr. Rumbold responded thanking the members most sincerely.

In the absence of Mr. Darrah, Judge Carrithers made the address of the evening and it was without doubt one of the best speeches on Masonry ever delivered in this city. The speaker was heartily applauded by his audience. The singing by the quintette also won hearty applause.

Following the program a splendid banquet was served. Burch's orchestra furnished music. Following the banquet the brethren enjoyed the remainder of the evening in a social way. The affair was one of the most pleasant in the history of the lodge.

A beautiful souvenir, a blue silk badge on which was lettered in gold, "1860-1910, Fiftieth Anniversary, Tarbolton Lodge No. 351, A.F. & A.M., Fairbury, Ill., Oct. 20, 1910" was given each one present.

The committee having the celebration in charge were: A. H. Birch, Dr. J. R. Rayburn, W. J. Bethard, Charles W. Sterns and N. E. Fulton.

Lodge History by Dr. J. R. Rayburn

The history of Tarbolton Lodge, No. 351 A.F. & A.M., is a record of progress. A record of an organization established under most unfavorable conditions, which through the strenuous efforts of its members, who have held in high esteem the principles of Masonry, has established itself as one of the strongest and best equipped lodges in central Illinois.

I found it impossible to obtain a complete and unbroken history of Tarbolton Lodge for the fifty years of its existence because of the records having been destroyed by fire in 1875, fifteen years after the charter had been issued.

A dispensation was issued by the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Illinois early in the year 1860 to institute a Masonic lodge in Fairbury to be known as Tarbolton Lodge, No. 351. It may be of interest to some of us to know something of the origin of the name Tarbolton. Two of our charter members, Brothers Henry Remington and L. H. Nash, were strong admirers of Bobby Burns, who, they claimed was a Mason and held membership in a lodge whose name was Tarbolton. At their suggestion the name Tarbolton was adopted for the new lodge then being instituted in Fairbury.

Tarbolton Lodge worked under dispensation until the meeting of the Grand Lodge, the following October in Springfield, at which time a charter was issued, bearing the date October 3rd, 1860, and was signed by A. W. Buch, Grand Master, and Harmon G. Reynolds, Grand Secretary.

The charter members were Aaron Weider, N. S. McDowell, L. H. Nash, Henry Remington, Robert Rumbolt, Horace M. Gillette, J. B. Hulsey, O. P. Ross and S. R. Roberts. Aaron Weider was the first Worshipful Master; M. S. McDowell, Senior Warden; L. H. Nash, Junior Warden. Of these nine brethren whose names appear on our charter, but one survives, Brother Robert Rumbold, whose residence at the present time is at Chatsworth, being the only living charter member of Tarbolton Lodge.

The first meetings of Tarbolton Lodge were held in a building of wood standing on the ground now occupied by the City Bakery. Two of the brethren whose names appear on our charter, Brother Henry Remington (father of Albert Remington) and Horace M. Gillette, conducted a general mercantile business on the ground floor of the building with living apartments on the second floor for both families. In these living rooms the first meetings of Tarbolton Lodge were held. We get the information from the good wife of Henry Remington who is still living, that these meetings were held under some difficulties, and at no small inconvenience to the general household.

On lodge nights the wives of these two faithful brethren were invited to vacate the premises for the entire evening, which they did, I am told without a murmur. Just when the meetings were discontinued at this place we have no records to show, but I have it from the memory of one of our brethren that the lodge removed from those rooms into a hall in a building which stood on the corner of Locust and Fourth Sts., where the Klondike Hotel now stands. This building was destroyed by fire February 22nd, 1868, after which Tarbolton Lodge got permission to hold its meetings in a residence on the corner of Elm and Sixth streets, owned and occupied by Brother Smith Olney, now the house of Charles Cumpston. From thence Tarbolton Lodge moved into a building which stood where this one now stands and which was owned jointly by Tarbolton Lodge and Livingston Lodge, No. 290, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

In December, 1870 Tarbolton Lodge sold its interest to Livingston Lodge, but continued to meet here until March 28th 1875, on which date the building was destroyed by fire. In this fire, Tarbolton lost her entire equipment, paraphernalia, records, and charter, and was practically bankrupt. As evidence of the zeal and loyal determination of the brethren who composed the membership, I point to the promptness which characterized their actions at that time.

They applied for and received a duplicate charter which bears the date April 1st, 1875, the third day after the fire. They secured a meeting place with Marshfield Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and held an informal meeting in their hall (where Wilson Kelso's residence now stands) April 1st, 1875. They continued to meet here until June 17th, 1875, on which date they moved into rooms over Blackburn & Co.'s drug store, (now Phil Wade's drug store). They occupied these rooms until the completion of this hall. The history of the building of this hall if written in detail, would afford too much material to be given here, therefore I may only touch briefly upon some of the principal points.

As I said above, the fire of March, 1875, left Tarbolton Lodge practically bankrupt. A hall of sufficient size and convenience could not be found. To build appeared to be the only possible means of saving the life of the lodge. Yet to build without money was a problem hard to solve. Previous to this Fairbury Chapter, No. 99, R.A.M., and St. Paul Commandery, No. 34, Knights Templar, had been instituted, but had, like Tarbolton, suffered the loss of everything in the fire.

These three bodies of Masonry, Blue Lodge, Chapter and Commandery, finally decided to join forces and build a hall. Sometime during the summer of 1875, the contract was let by parties owning the lots, for the erection of this building we are now in. By contract these parties were to own and occupy the second story over both store rooms. To start this enterprise six hundred dollars was raised by subscription from among the brethren. The balance of the money was borrowed at the bank of Bartlett, Beach & Dominy, a note being given as security, signed by twenty of the members of the Masonic fraternity. The hall was completed early in the year of 1876. The records show that the first meeting held herein by Tarbolton Lodge was on the evening of February 3rd, 1876, less than one year after the fire.

The Masonic fraternity later purchased and now own the store room below, occupied by Bethard & Son.

The first stated communications of Tarbolton Lodge were held on Thursday evenings on or before the full moon. This practice was adopted I presume, for the convenience of the members as it afforded moonlight nights for lodge attendance. We now meet the first and third Thursdays of each month.

Officers of Tarbolton Lodge Since 1871:

January 5, 1871
Wm. Baily—Worshipful Master
N. V. T. Robertson—Senior Warden
Wm. Griffith—Junior Warden
J. E. Bliss—Secretary

N. V. T. Robertson,—Worshipful M.
M. L. Hamilton—Senior Warden
E. F. Joy—Junior Warden
J. E. Bliss—Secretary

December 21, 1871
N. V. T. Robertson, Worshipful Master
H. J. Straight—Senior Warden
E. F. Joy—Junior Warden
A. D. Olney—Secretary

December 12, 1872
N. V. T. Robertson, Worshipful M.
H. Remington—Senior Warden
E. Gregg—Junior Warden
Wm. Hackett—Secretary

November 27, 1873
E. F. Joy—Worshipful Master
E. Gregg—Senior Warden
S. Olney—Junior Warden
John Decker—Secretary

December 17, 1874
E. F. Joy—Worshipful Master
E. Gregg—Senior Warden
S. M. Barnes—Junior Warden
S. Olney—Secretary

December 9, 1875
E. F. Joy—Worshipful Master
S. M. Barnes—Senior Warden
A. M. Burch—Junior Warden
S. Olney—Secretary

November 30, 1876
E. Gregg—Worshipful Master
S. B. Barnes—Senior Warden
A. M. Burch—Junior Warden
Edward Anable—Secretary

December 20, 1877
Smith Olney—Worshipful Master
H. M. Gillett—Senior Warden
H. Remingron—Junior Warden
T. W. Duffy—Secretary

December 5, 1878
Smith Olney—Worshipful Master
John Zimmerman—Senior Warden
Henry Kingman—Junior Warden
T. W. Duffy—Secretary

December 25, 1879
E. F. Joy—Worshipful Master
G. W. Patton—Senior Warden
J. R. Rayburn—Junior Warden
Smith Olney—Secretary

December 16, 1880
Jno. Zimmerman—Worshipful M.
Wm. Blain—Senior Warden
J. R. Rayburn—Junior Warden
S. Olney—Secretary

December 1, 1881
J. R. Rayburn—Worshipful Master
F. W. Mahoney—Senior Warden
J. M. Belke—Junior Warden
E. Anable—Secretary

December 21, 1882

J. R. Rayburn—Worshipful Master
E. Anable—Senior Warden
M. E. Dubois—Junior Warden
Smith Olney—Secretary.

December 13, 1883
S. M. Barnes—Worshipful Master
D. A. Fraley—Senior Warden
M. Katz—Junior Warden
Smith Olney—Secretary

November 27, 1884

December 17, 1885
C. F. H. Carrithers—Worshipful M.
M. Katz—Senior Warden
T. T. Babcock—Junior Warden
Smith Olney—Secretary

December 9, 1886
J. R. Rayburn—Worshipful M.
T. T. Babcock—Senior Warden
C. E. Carter—Junior Warden
Smith Olney—Secretary

November 24, 1887
J. R. Rayburn—Worshipful M.
Smith Olney—Senior Warden
T. A. McKenzie—Junior Warden
John Zimmerman—Secretary

December 13, 1888
C. F. H. Carrithers—Worshipful M.
E. E. Carter—Senior Warden
T. A. McKenzie—Junior Warden
Jno. Zimmerman—Secretary

December 5, 1889
T. A. McKenzie—Worshipful Master
J. H. Conerus—Senior Warden
C. J. Merit—Junior Warden
Jno. Zimmerman—Secretary

December 25, 1890
J. R. Rayburn—Worshipful Master
J. R. Conerus—Senior Warden
Jas. E. Hopkins—Junior Warden
W. C. Wade—Secretary

December 10, 1891
J. H. Conerus—Worshipful Master
J. E. Hopkins—Senior Warden
J. J. Pence—Junior Warden
E. Gregg—Secretary

December 1, 1892
J. H. Conerus—Worshipful Master
E. W. Maloney—Senior Warden
T. T. Babcock—Junior Warden
E. Gregg—Secretary

December 7, 1893
John Zimmerman—Worshipful M.
T. T. Babcock—Senior Warden
A. H. Burch—Junior Warden
Smith Olney—Secretary

December 6, 1894
John Zimmerman—Worshipful M.
A. H. Burch—Senior Warden
John Clift—Junior Warden
Thos. Gants—Secretary

December 6, 1895
C. F. H. Carrithers—Worshipful M.
J. H. Clift—Senior Warden
A. C. Bartlett—Junior Warden
M. M. Jacobs—Secretary

December 3, 1896
E. Gregg—Worshipful Master
C. S. Brydia—Senior Warden
M. M. Jacobs—Junior Warden
John Zimmerman—Secretary

December 2, 1897
C. S. Brydia—Worshipful Master
M. M. Jacobs—Senior Warden
S. R. Cornish—Junior Warden
John Zimmerman—Secretary

December 15, 1898
C. S. Brydia—Worshipful Master
M. M. Jacobs—Senior Warden
S. R. Cornish—Junior Warden
John Zimmerman—Secretary

December 7, 1899

C. S. Brydia—Worshipful Master
M. M. Jacobs—Senior Warden
T. F. Langabeer—Junior Warden
John Zimmerman—Secretary

December 6, 1900
J. R. Rayburn—Worshipful Master
M. M. Jacobs—Senior Warden
H. W. Pence—Junior Warden
John Zimmerman—Secretary

December 5, 1901
J. R. Rayburn—Worshipful Master
A. H. Birch—Senior Warden
H. W. Pence—Junior Warden
John Zimmerman—Secretary

December 5, 1902
A. H. Birch—Worshipful Master
H. W. Pence—Senior Warden
W. C. Conerus—Junior Warden
John Zimmerman—Secretary

December 3, 1903
A. H. Birch—Worshipful Master
H. W. Pence—Senior Warden
Fred Wright—Junior Warden
John Zimmerman—Secretary

December 1, 1904
H. W. Pence—Worshipful Master
Fred Wright—Senior Warden
J. F. Goudy—Junior Warden
John Zimmerman—Secretary

December 7, 1905
H. W. Pence—Worshipful Master
Fred Wright—Senior Warden
J. G. Goudy—Junior Warden
John Zimmerman—Secretary

December 6, 1906
Fred Wright—Worshipful Master
J. F. Goudy—Senior Warden
L. S. Henderson—Junior Warden
John Zimmerman—Secretary

December 5, 1907
J. F. Goudy—Worshipful Master

L. S. Henderson—Senior Warden
A. F. Corser—Junior Warden
John Zimmerman—Secretary

December 3, 1908
J. F. Goudy—Worshipful Master
L. S. Henderson—Senior Warden
A. F. Corser—Junior Warden
John Zimmerman—Secretary

December 2, 1909
L. S. Henderson—Worshipful Master
A. F. Corser—Senior Warden
H. B. Bull—Junior Warden
John Zimmerman—Secretary

Early Doctors Helped Write History of Fairbury Area

by Alma Lewis-James

To begin with, the town of Fairbury was located by expediency, and not by any wisdom in planning.

Caleb Patton had a farm, and he saw a chance to turn an honest dollar. It was as simple as that.

From a health standpoint, however, the site scarcely could have been worse. It was all low, level ground that turned into a marsh under a heavy rain. The mud was fabulously fertile, but it was bottomless.

They dug one great drainage ditch thru the town to empty into Indian Creek. This helped a little, but the cellars on the north side of town still filled to the floor boards, given an inch or so of rain, and so they added other ditches. These carried the water away at first, but, as the willow trees throve along their banks, the roots formed a network impeding the flow. They held the wind-borne filth and debris, and the whole system of channels became a stagnant, stinking mess, a haven of mosquitoes.

There were other havens, too, in the ponds that lingered among the houses, and in the rain barrels and cisterns.

And there were flies. Beside the outside privies that belonged to every house, each family had at least one horse and perhaps a cow, and a manure pile with its attending swarm of flies behind the barn. There were no screens on the houses, and the flies came and went at pleasure, attracted by any food that pleased them.

Beside the manure at the barns, there was the manure on the village streets. In one spring the Commissioner removed over three hundred wagon loads from the streets. In summer this dried and

mingled with the dust blowing into the houses, and into the stores downtown. The more progressive of the grocers and butchers attempted to cover their wares, but so many prospective customers lifted the covers to see what was beneath, they became fly-traps instead.

Garbage and trash were thrown into the Commons across from the stores and along the roads leading into town. They even disposed of their dead animals near town in this way. The most ordinary cleanliness was non-existent at either the slaughter house or the Arcade poultry house, as was attested by the stench.

There were rats, too, by the millions, fat with garbage, and corn from the private cribs which some of the larger land owners had built within the village precincts, and with the grain from the great elevators.

Milk for the inhabitants of the town was delivered to house doors in big open cans. Any cleanliness there, or at the barn, was between the farmer and his conscience.

There was no city water in adequate supply, and so every household drew its water from its own well. All of the wells in town were shallow, for water was only too easy to reach, and some of these wells were open ones, a peril to man and beast. There was a well in every block on Main Street, complete with a trough for the horses and three or four tin cups chained to the pump for the use of the humans.

With conditions such as these, certain diseases were accepted as more or less inevitable. In malaria season, the pioneer wife organized her housework to fit the alternating days of “shakes and fever”. She cooked enough for two days when she was feverish but able to be up and about, and then she could take to the comfort of her bed on the following day when she was shaking with the chills.

They had typhoid, naturally.

And they had tuberculosis. They called it “consumption”. There was also “quick consumption” and “galloping consumption”. The terms were a measure of the speed with which one died.

They had cholera morbus and cholera infantum (grownups and babies.)

They had outbreaks of smallpox and of scarlet fever and diphtheria.

There were epidemics of measles and whooping cough. Children, every winter, died of these. Nevertheless, they believed, doctors and parents alike, the children’s diseases were inevitable; and considered it best if a child could have them all while young and be finished with it.

Even a scarlet fever epidemic failed to worry them very much. In 1889 it closed the schools, but the Methodists went right ahead, anyway, with their social to raise money for a new organ.

Now it should be carefully emphasized that these conditions were common in all the towns throughout the new territory. Fairbury was not a unique pest-hole to be singled out as a horrible example. In fact, it was considered a fine place to live.

And above all, it is to be remembered, the steady progression of medical discoveries since then, and the services of our dedicated physicians themselves, have gradually educated the general public to accept our modern health standards as commonplace.

The pioneers knew no such thing as preventive medicine. A doctor was not called until the patient's condition had become truly serious. The doctors themselves did not encourage a call for trifles; they had no office hours, no Thursday afternoons off.

It was a hard life, and, to keep going, some of the weaker ones took to drink, especially during the Civil War when so few physicians were left for the people at home; and there were instances of women permanently injured in childbirth because of a drunken doctor.

The rest of them stayed on their feet with strong coffee. Their practice was in a country of widely scattered homes, reached by worst possible roads, on horseback or by buggy, in howling weather, day or night. The practice of the Fairbury doctors had a radius of twenty-five miles.

All too often, a doctor would reach his home after an all night trip in a storm so bad that all he could do was to give his horse its head to find its own way home, only to discover a man waiting for him with an emergency call to a house just a mile or two further down the very road over which he had just come. Sometimes a single case would take all day or night, or even both. Dr. Cicero Bartlett charged fifty cents a call, day or night.

Another reason for reluctance to summon a physician was because there were no telephones, and the only way they were able to call one was to drive the family horse all the way into town, and then, perhaps, find him out on another case. It made one "think twice."

Moreover, a doctor's office was scarcely a reassuring place for a nervous person to wait. There was no receptionist, but the door was left open, and a sign stated when the doctor thought he might be back. In the meantime anyone was at liberty to sit down in the waiting room in the company of the desk and safe, and a skeleton that hung in a corner. There were a few chairs for the patients, a framed diploma, if the doctor had one, and a chart or two of the muscular and the nervous systems of the human body.

Back of this room they knew there was another where some of the patients were taken to be treated privately; and still another, smaller, room which served as the doctor's dispensary. It had shelves of medicine bottles, scales, and his mortar and pestle. The doctor's compounds were his own. He made the medicines and capsules himself, jealously guarding his recipes.

Human nature is always human nature, however, and once a patient had taken his medicine and found

himself cured, he was sometimes seized with a cramp in his wallet.

Like the newspaper editors, the doctors learned to expect a portion of their payment in surplus produce of various kinds. Once, for an operation, Doctor Lewis received a large amount of honey in the comb. There was no place to put it, except in the attic, and when the hot weather came the stuff melted and ran down into the rooms below, causing damage far in excess of the original bill.

The medical men expected slow payment, but they were reasonably firm about getting it eventually, and every December the newspaper carried their advertisements:

"All those knowing themselves indebted to me, will please call and settle up before the close of the present year." Some of the business men used this method, too.

There was grumbling about the size of the bills, naturally, and one man protested to Doc Ostrander about the amount he had charged for one tiny bottle of medicine.

Doc instantly became secretive. "If you only knew about that medicine," he whispered, "you wouldn't have been one bit surprised about the price. Just ONE of the ingredients," Doc assured him solemnly, "cost $27,000.00 an ounce! That was because it required the services of ten men four whole months to gather that one ounce, and nine of those ten men lost their lives while at it!"

Doc's patient paid at once.

When it was too difficult to procure a doctor, people turned to their neighbors. Certain kindly women went about helping the sick and distressed, and for years they doctored whole neighborhoods with their home remedies. Many of them considered their own knowledge superior to that of the doctors', and in some cases they were right.

They ran incredible risks of contagion, as in the case of the elder Mrs. Will Fugate. She attended a strange woman who was not expected to live, and from her she caught the "black erysipelas." Her own head became "as big as a bucket," and her husband put his foot down flat: "never again for ANYBODY!"

On the other hand, in town sickness of any sort was pretty much of a community affair. When anyone took to his bed, the neighbors trooped in with advice and home remedies. Every woman had her own pet medicines which she made herself, and which she guaranteed to cure. Most of them were concoctions notable for bitterness and strength.

The husbands and older children could fight back under some of these treatments, but the babies were helpless. Every woman, married or not, considered herself an authority about infants; and, without a doubt, responsibility for the heavy death rate of little children lay, in part, with the fact that everything was tried before they called the doctor.

Fairbury was more fortunate than most towns because of its dedicated physicians. It had its full share of the other sort, too, and, in all, there were seventeen doctors in Fairbury in 1877.

That was the year the state of Illinois created the State Board of Health, and so, with the law behind them, the physicians of Fairbury went to work to clean up the town.

Wells were cleaned and covered; the slaughter and poultry houses were made to clean up their premises; a vigorous warfare was waged to exterminate the rats; they got an ordinance passed providing heavy fines for the dumping of garbage or dead animals along the roadside; and they provided a pest house to isolate the victims of dangerous contagious diseases.

"Clean Up Week" was inaugurated, timed perfectly in June after the accumulations of winter and the spring rains, and just before the Fair. Civic pride was strong, and with many visitors coming from surrounding towns—most particularly Pontiac—the citizens set about their annual furbishing. "The alleys must be cleaned of manure, the cowpens, pig sties, chicken coops and privies. Disinfect with lime or copperas. H. E. Johnson, Clerk, City Board of Health."

That included the privies at the depot. The stench from these was the first thing that greeted a passenger getting off the train at Fairbury. There were village ordinances passed to regulate the staking of cows too close to the sidewalks; the herding of animals in the streets; the furnishing of labor on said streets by the prisoners from the town jail; and the administering of heavy fines for the "carrying of slingshots and other dangerous weapons within the village limits." All were calculated to reduce accidents, and the last one was not the piece of humor it appears, and one sure source of income for the doctors was the patching of the battle wounds of the drunks.

Since there were no laws to govern the sale of liquor, even to minors, fights, hooliganism and pure deviltry were common with males of all ages, and excused with the syllogism that "boys will be boys." The drinking of hard liquor and the resulting drunkenness was an accepted social fact with a large portion of the population, and anyone under the influence of alcohol was excused from the consequences of anything he did, on the grounds that he was not his normal self. This applied even in cases of murder.

When the saloons closed, late in the evening, the keepers threw the helpless cases into the alley where they might be found eventually and trundled home on wheelbarrows.

The pathetic horses standing untended all day in front of the saloons, unblanketed against the weather, proclaimed the drunks who were on a "toot" again. Their families lived in social ostracism and bitter poverty, for there were no agencies to give them aid.

It was the thinking men of the community, and doctors like Fraley and Ostrander, who organized the Fairbury Temperance Union and called the first mass meetings. The women joined them, and by 1890

the society had an impressive list of accomplishments. By village ordinance every saloonkeeper (there was one in every block on Main Street and two in the east block) was required to give a $3,000.00 bond and have two good securities; the license cost $600.00 a year, payable in installments; no pool tables or any games whatever were allowed on the premises; no selling to minors without a written order; all windows of the saloons to be kept clean and free of anything to obstruct a clear view into the place; all rowdiness and minors were forbidden on the premises; the hours were "shortened to 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.", and they closed the saloons on Sunday.

What was more, in 1897 they passed another ordinance "requiring the teaching in the common schools of physiology and hygiene with reference to alcoholic beverages on the human system."

Then the doctors worked together towards their goal of universal smallpox vaccination, and they were so earnest about this that one child was vaccinated a third time when the first two failed to "take". With the last, all three became effective and made her terrifically ill.

For those early smallpox vaccinations a space of skin about an inch square was scraped from the forearm with a surgeon's knife, and a small transparent cup was taped over the spot for protection. This also gave a clear view of the horrendous scab beneath it, and the scar remaining was an impressive one. One physician, disliking the results, considered himself particularly progressive when he vaccinated his own daughter upon the calf of her leg, where he thought it would never show. He never dreamed women's skirts were to go up and would stay that way.

The doctors got quarantine laws passed, and they were adamant about them. Every youngster that had a child's disease had a big red sign nailed to the front of his house by a member of the Board of Health. When he had recovered and all danger of contagion had passed, and the house had been fumigated if necessary, then, and then only, could the sign be taken down and the family go outdoors again.

The doctors had prizes given to the school children bringing in the most dead flies, and the teachers gave impressive lectures to the scholars about the germs each one carries.

The doctors caused signs to be posted up and down Main Street, every few feet: "$5.00 fine for spitting on the sidewalk." Since at least one man out of three chewed tobacco and spit at random, the male adults of the town were hard hit.

When Doctor Sam Barnes became Mayor in the 1890's, sewer pipe was laid in the old ditches to drain the town and they were filled in; and the Blade came out with a strong editorial advocating Federal Pure Food laws. The Fairbury merchants purchased a huge horse-drawn water tank to sprinkle the more important streets and lay the summer dust; and the Walton Brothers were lauded as public benefactors when they installed an ice-cooled drinking fountain with two spouts.

The commonly accepted way to become a doctor in the pioneer days was to "read" for 2 or 3 years with some older, established member of the profession. As a sort of apprentice, the young man attended him

on his round of calls, driving the horse while the doctor caught a much needed nap, and assisting with the patients. He swept out the office, helped prepare the medicines, and made himself generally useful. In return, the doctor gave him lessons and advice.

At the end of several years the earnest aspirant could attend a medical school. There were dozens of these schools in Illinois following the Civil War. All of them offered two terms of sixteen weeks each, with identical lectures for both terms, and they gave diplomas to their graduates.

Any man in Illinois who wished, however, might become a doctor by simply hanging out his shingle. (They were just that.) It was said the only diagnostic equipment needed was the five senses and a stethoscope.

The instruments they used were commonly unsterilized. The more fastidious doctors boiled them, but most washed them off with soap and water. Some, however, did not bother with all that, and wiped them off with the first bit of cloth that came to hand, sometimes their own pants or coat-tails.

Every doctor wore some sort of beard, as did nearly every male who could sprout a whisker. In the case of the medical men, this was considered to be of great importance, because it gave the appearance of age and experience, so necessary to impress a patient.

Their clothes were impressive, too. Every man of the profession wore a knee-length single-breasted coat which automatically gave height and dignity to the wearer. These were called “Prince Alberts”, so named in honor of Queen Victoria’s consort who made them so popular. The doctors always wore high silk hats, and in winter they put a shawl about their shoulders, as Lincoln did. Many of them carried canes, but no man who even pretended to any sort of style ever wore creased trousers. A crease in any clothes meant they had been lying on a shelf instead of hanging properly in a wardrobe, and this was considered most unattractive.

Their vest was extremely impressive, too, because across it was looped a heavy gold chain with a massive fob at one side and a watch tucked into a little pocket on the other. The watch was as big and fine as the wearer’s purse would allow, and many a patient’s fears were soothed by the mere sight of it as the doctor counted his pulse.

After that was done, always, the doctor depressed his patient’s tongue with a spoon handle and told him to say, “Ah-h-h-h-h”. Following that, the doctor was on his own.

There were no hospitals of any sort. Operations were performed on dining room tables. They used the light of candles or kerosene lamps, if it was at night; or, if the weather was fine, the table was taken out of doors. The clouds of flies, drawn by the blood, were too common to notice.

Confinements were in the home, with the patient in her own bed; and the doctor, assisted by a neighbor lady, stayed with her throughout the labor. Babies by the score were named for him.

Each one of his patients was known to him intimately, and his practice was based on personal friendship and interest. Such a doctor was a man of deepest sympathies. He witnessed such terrible sorrow; such quick tragedies. His patients felt a love and personal dependence on him, for his help extended far beyond medical aid.

One of the most beloved of these early physicians was Doctor Chauncey Ostrander who is chiefly remembered now for the brilliancy of his tall tales, many of which have become classics. The doctors made a special point of telling a good joke. It helped alleviate the terror and pain.

Doc Ostrander was born in the Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, in 1818, the youngest of four children, and when he was five years old the family immigrated to Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

He was only fifteen when he lost both his father and mother by smallpox within a few days of each other, and the orphaned children were cared for by the Methodist congregation.

The boy studied medicine there with an established physician, and then started west on foot in 1836. All his belongings were with him: one extra shirt and one pair of socks. Fortunately, however, he encountered a kindly family in a covered wagon, and they took him as far as Michigan. From there he made his way to Chicago.

The following year he was appointed Assistant Surgeon in the United States Army, and was sent to Florida during the Seminole War. When he returned he practiced in Chicago for nine years, during which time he married Miss Jane Holland of New York State. She was a wise, quiet, good woman.

Doc's 80-acre farm near Avoca was undoubtedly a government grant, and he made that his home until his later years when he moved to Fairbury and opened an office.

Doc was a Presbyterian, an Abolitionist, a Republican and Prohibitionist. He was also an ardent American, and, since he never did anything by halves, he created a sensation during the Spanish-American War by painting his house and the picket fence around it a bright red, white and blue.

Doc did tell wonderful stories, but there are those who also reverence his memory with the deepest love and gratitude. He and his wife were childless, but they adopted eight children, and raised and educated them as their own. Doc always had a warm heart for a homeless child.

Dr. Brewer was a native of Ohio, and came to Fairbury in 1876. His office was over Walton's store, and twice he was burned out in their fires.

He had a bald head and a long white beard, but was tall and erect to the very last, and he always gave the impression of immense strength. Indeed, he had begun his medical career as a prison physician, and while there he had quelled, unarmed and single-handed, a riot of fifteen men.

He habitually went without a coat or hat, save in extreme weather. His neighbors, just by watching him set out for his office of a winter morning, could judge the temperature. At ten degrees above zero he put on a hat. At ten degrees below, he added a light jacket.

He first advertised himself a Homeopathic Physician, presently adding that he also pulled teeth, and finally announcing himself a specialist in women's diseases.

To his patients he was kind but firm. He told it, himself, that he gave bread pills to the ladies who had become chronically addicted to the idea of medicine but had nothing whatever the matter with them.

One patient found herself so benefited by the medicine he prescribed for her that later, when she became sick again, she returned to his office and asked for some more of it. She reappeared a few days later and confessed, a little uncertainly, the medicine hadn't seemed to help her so much this time.

Doc gruffly replied he hadn't thought it would, because she had something altogether different the matter with her. He fixed her some new medicine, but when she took out her purse to pay him for everything, he waved his hand in dismissal. He said he didn't charge patients who prescribed for themselves.

Dr. Brewer was in active practice over 60 years, nearly all of the time being spent in Fairbury. He was over 90 years old when he died, in 1933, from an accident causing the fracture of his hip.

Dr. Fraley was also a native of Ohio. He, too, was tall. He had a prominent chin and a long, hooked nose, and later in life, after he had lost his teeth, these nearly met.

He was summoned one time, when a laundress fell on the sidewalk outside of Dominy's house and cut her foot so badly it would take several stitches to close it. Doc sent back word he couldn't come: he had to help his wife seed cherries.

The doctors had competition with their medicines. Before the American Medical Association enforced a housecleaning in the patent medicine business, every drug store stocked a profusion of these "sure cures."

Also, there were the "medicine shows" that traveled about the country. These were enclosed wagons pulled by a horse. They stopped at a prominent corner in town, gave a little entertainment, and then sold their bottles of "medicine" to whatever crowd had gathered. One bottle of their stuff was positively guaranteed to cure any ailment known to man or beast, and what a genuine doctor thought of these peddlers was hair-raising.

There were even quacks among the medical men themselves. A Doctor DeVoe, who resided temporarily at the Thomas House, advertised himself as: "The Surgeon in Chief of the Inter State

Association of Expert Specialists. Cures are guaranteed."

It was not just the quacks who advertised positive cures, but some of the reputable men as well, and even in case of cancer.

Their professional advertisements appeared as a column in the local paper each week, and showed the effects of that competition. In 1878, the tiny town of Fairbury and its scanty rural population had no less than seventeen doctors. Among these were Doctors Barnes, Brewer, Fraley, Pearson, Ostrander, Bartlett and Hudgen. Also, for a short time there was a H. R. Wood who advertised himself to be a Homocopathic physician.

The Blade played a large part in the professional life of the doctors. Each issue carried the column of their advertisements; but the announcements of the new babies they brought into the world appeared only irregularly. Apparently, they "saved up" until their list could make an impressive showing. The doctor's name, in large type, headed this item. Below it, in smaller print, were the names of the happy parents and the babies themselves.

There were many accident cases, some involving horses. In each account the name of the doctor was given, and his procedure outlined. Interesting illnesses were described in detail, together with the treatment given by the attending physician. The Blade also mentioned with awe the woman who had all her teeth pulled at one sitting; and whenever Dr. Barnes operated for a tumor, he bottled it and invited the public to his office for a viewing.

Doctors also advertised that they pulled teeth, underhanded competition for Dr. Rayburn, the real dentist, who was quick to install one of the newly invented electric drills in his "dental parlors" in 1894. He was one of the men who did so much for the Fairbury hospital when it was first started.

It was doctors like Otis, Thatcher and Lewis who bridged the time gap between the pioneer and the modern methods.

Dr. Lewis usually drove a gig, and on his calls to many of the German immigrant families, he took Mrs. Emil Keller with him to interpret, and, like all young doctors, he had a struggle to become established. Consequently, he was most happy when a farmer came to summon him: his wife was in labor and their regular doctor was out of town.

During the drive out to the farm in the buggy, the husband's troubles impelled him to confidence: "Look here, Doc, I've already got six girls, and I sure would like to have a boy this time. Fix it up for me, can't you?"

The young doctor was dumbfounded, but he promised to do everything he could, and no one was more surprised than he when it really did turn out to be a boy.

The jubilant father was overcome with gratitude, but not to the extent of employing him again; but, a year later, when the two chanced to meet again on the street, the farmer seized him by the arm.

“You know, Doc,” he said earnestly, “we’ve just had another girl at our house. By golly, after this I’m always going to get you!”

Dr. G. C. Lewis had the first real telephone in town, connecting his house and office, and he was the first doctor to have a car. It was the second car in Livingston County, and it was a bright red Remington which could be speeded up to 40 miles an hour. It seated four, the two rear passengers entering the car through a door in the back end.

Driving those first cars was a civic responsibility, because a horse, faced with one of them, instantly went berserk, and sometimes with calamitous results.

It was possible, of course, to stop the horrifying racket of the engine by turning it off, but this necessitated cranking it again and that was plain, hard work. Moreover, the crank handle sometimes had a nasty way of kicking back and breaking an arm.

The alternative was for the driver of the automobile to descend and lead the lunatic horse safely past his car, occasionally at the risk of his own neck.

One Fair week Doctor Lewis was chugging along back to town when he met a carry-all going home. The family, friends of his, had all been to the Fair and every one of them was in that buggy, and any chinks between the children were filled with groceries. One old white horse was pulling this outfit, and he was plunking along with his nose almost on the ground.

Doc was just congratulating himself that this was one he wouldn’t have to lead the animal past, when the old skate happened to flick an eyelash and got a look at what was right in front of him. He snorted, reared, and set off down the road at a rate that must have astounded himself when he thought about it later, and he spilled cargo at every jump.

Doc leaped from his automobile and began pulling children out of the ditch. Every one of them was yelling like a Comanche. Suddenly he espied a sack of sugar that had burst open in the grass, and he snatched up a handful of it and slapped it into the mouth of the nearest child. The effect was magical, and enabled him to see if there were any broken bones; so he treated the rest of them the same way. He finally caught the horse, and got them all loaded up again, but he said that ever afterwards he always looked at that old rack of bones with a great deal of respect.

Doc did not realize it, but a new age of medical practice had begun.

General Transcription Notes

- I have been researching Fairbury history for almost 15 years. I knew there was a Centennial issue of the Blade, but I did not use it much for reference for my many Fairbury history articles or books. All of the photos on the online archives are of unusable quality. Many of the stories are also almost unusable to the poor quality of the microfilming process used many decades ago.

- I was doing some research on Fairbury Methodist Church history and I accidentally came across the April 3, 1958, Centennial issue of the Blade. The Fairbury Echoes Museum has paper copies of this issue bound into annual books. When I reviewed the books, I was totally amazed at how much valuable historical information is in the issue!

- I decided to tackle the task of transcribing all 64 pages of this edition, as well as extracting the approximately 160 photos or illustrations. If I could transcribe this information into text files and graphic images, future researchers can easily find this information if I save it on Archive.Org.

- I have a flatbed scanner with a removable lid that is 8.5x14 inches. My process for the digitization of this huge article was:
    - Scan a page in pieces using the flatbed scanner. Usually it takes 8 to 10 pieces to capture the whole newspaper page.
    - Use free Microsoft software, Image Composite Editor, to merge all the pieces into 1 JPG file.
    - Extract the images and use ChatGPT to repair and colorize the images.
    - For each article, copy a portion of the article, then paste it into ChatGPT for transcribing. After each column of an article was transcribed, I fed the transcribed article back to ChatGPT to error check it against the upload images. I had ChatGPT fix the errors and then I copied it and pasted it into the manuscript DOC file

- There is not way I could have done this project without the help of ChatGPT in transcribing and error checked the articles. It transcribed 117,669 words for me on this project. ChatGPT also repaired and colorized about 161 images for me.
- In a normal Blade edition of 10 to 20 pages, I have very seldom found any major errors made by Blade personnel. At 64 pages and info from multiple parties, this project overwhelmed the Blade staff (there is a short article in this edition basically stating this). I found many, many errors including caption errors, typesetting errors, incorrect captions, etc. If I found an obvious error I either fixed it or made a Transcription note explaining the error. The Blade stated they knew the quality of this large edition would not be perfect, but they decided it was more

important to gather and document this historical information (quantity over quality). I agree with the approach they used.

- Many of the images in this 1958 newspaper, which is now 68 years old, have faded very badly. The use of ChatGPT allows these fading images to be captured and improved.

- I also likely made some mistakes creating this ~385 page document. I did the best I could use error checking techniques to try to minimize the transcription errors.

- This manuscript will be saved on Archive.Org to preserve this history and allow future researchers to access it easily. The manuscript has all 161 images contained in the manuscript. I plan on saving in both PDF and TXT file formats. I also plan on uploading all 161 images to Archive.Org in a separate upload.

- I may turn this manuscript into a new Fairbury history book.

- Hopefully my many days of transcribing these 64 pages and 161 images will preserve this valuable historical information for future generations to use and enjoy.

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